PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
18 January 2010—29 January 2010

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18 January 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 18 January 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Fair Access to the Professions

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): I have today laid before Parliament the Command Paper "Unleashing Aspiration—The Government Response to the Final Report of the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions". This responds to the report of the same name led by my right hon. Friend the Member for Darlington (Mr. Milburn), published on 21 July 2009.

Social mobility lies at the heart of this Government's social policies. That is why, in our White Paper "New Opportunities—Fair Chances for the Future" (Cmd. 7533) last year, we set out our commitment to give everyone a fair chance to get ahead and it was following the publication of that paper that my right hon. Friend the Member for Darlington was commissioned by the Prime Minister to write his report.

The fair access to the professions report has already had a profound impact on the policies of this Government since its publication: "Quality, Choice and Aspiration" the information advice and guidance strategy launched by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, School and Families is making it easier for young people and their parents to access high quality advice and guidance about education and careers. Today we will set out a guarantee, building from the "New Opportunities" White Paper, for up to 130,000 of the brightest young people from low-income backgrounds to benefit from a structured package of support towards higher education from 2012.

In "Higher Ambitions" the higher education framework, we made it clear to universities that social mobility must remain at the heart of their mission. We accepted the panel's recommendation on asking universities to take into account the context of educational achievement when assessing admissions. Lord Browne is leading an independent review of higher education funding and student finance to ensure the system caters for full and part-time students and finance is not a barrier to accessing higher education.

We announced in the pre-Budget report £8 million of financial support for up to 10,000 undergraduates from low-income backgrounds to take up short internships. With the help of employers, we have set up the graduate talent pool advertising thousands of internship opportunities and today we announce a new online national internship service providing both undergraduate and graduate internships in one place.

Our plans are not just about young people. We are asking universities to run shorter and more flexible courses for all. The provision of flexible learning was also an important element of "Skills for Growth", our national skills strategy, where we committed to a new apprenticeships scholarship programme so that the best apprentices can go on to higher education if they wish. We have also launched skills accounts for all which will put power to choose courses and access to course information firmly in the hands of the learner.

These are just some examples of the work we are undertaking to create a more socially mobile society through fairer access to the professions. The full range of activity is set out in our response. Of the total 88 recommendations, we accept the vast majority today.

Our relaunched Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum will be instrumental in driving this work across all the professions. It will both advise on and help to implement the fair access agenda in the professions themselves.

Our commitment to social mobility is long-term. That is why we announce today the creation of a Social Mobility Commission to be based in the Cabinet Office. It will give expert advice to Government and report on progress towards a fairer, more mobile society. To further assist this work we will soon be receiving the report of the national equality panel, chaired by Professor Sir John Hills. This will outline how economic inequality, social background, gender, race and other factors impact on life chances. Sir John's report will inform the implementation of the socio-economic duty in the Equality Bill, as well as wider Government action in this area.

We have raised the glass ceiling of social mobility in this country, now we must break it. The document we publish today outlines the next steps we will take towards this goal. Let me conclude by thanking my right hon. Friend the Member for Darlington and the panel on fair access to the professions for their work. I am confident that the panel's work will help raise the aspiration of millions of people in this country and give them reassurance that all they need to succeed is ability, talent and determination.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister with responsibility for food, farming and environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), will be representing the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 18 January. No Ministers from the devolved Administrations are scheduled to attend.

This will be the first Agriculture and Fisheries Council under the Spanish presidency, and they will outline their work programme on agriculture and fisheries dossiers. Discussions will also take place on two substantive items—the Commission Communication "A better functioning food supply chain in Europe" and the Italian state aid request for the purchase of agriculture land.

Under any other business, a Bulgarian request for state aid for producers of raw tobacco has been tabled.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the British Antarctic Territory

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The UK firmly rejects the enactment and promulgation, on 9 December 2009, of Argentine law 26.552 and thus the additional paragraph in article 1 of Argentine law 23.775 in so far as it purports to include within a province of Argentina areas which comprise the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the British Antarctic Territory.

The UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The UK also has no doubt about its sovereignty over the British Antarctic Territory (south of latitude 60°S and bounded by longitudes 20°W and 80°W).

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has delivered a Note Verbale to the Argentine Charge d'Affaires in London outlining the UK's rejection.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 19 January 2010

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 19 January 2010. The following items are on the agenda:

Legislative deliberations

Taxation

a) Savings Tax Directive

ECOFIN will discuss proposed amendments to the Savings Tax Directive to tackle cross-border tax evasion on savings income, by automatic exchange of information. This and the following items have strong links to the international transparency agenda, including work by the G20 on tax havens and non-co-operative jurisdictions under the UK's G20 presidency in 2009.

b) Recovery Directive

The Recovery Directive is aimed at improving existing procedures for recovery of direct and indirect tax debts, including on income tax, VAT, excise duties and EU agricultural levies. The Government support the extended provisions, which will reduce the opportunities for businesses and individuals to escape paying tax that is legally due in one member state, by moving to another member state.

c) Administrative Co-operation Directive

ECOFIN will seek a general approach on this directive, which will improve exchange of information and bring the EU into line with OECD standards by removing the right to refuse information on grounds of bank secrecy. The Government support these goals.

Non-legislative activities

Taxation

Anti-fraud agreements with third countries

ECOFIN will discuss the draft anti-fraud agreement with Liechtenstein, and a negotiating mandate for anti-fraud agreements with Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland and San Marino. The proposed agreements provide for exchange of information to international standards in administrative and criminal matters in the tax field and related areas.

Presentation of the Presidency Work Programme

The Spanish presidency will present its ECOFIN work programme for the first half of 2010.

Statistics: Eurostat report

ECOFIN will agree a set of conclusions on a report by the Commission's statistics agency into the quality of official statistics in Greece. This follows a request from the November 2009 ECOFIN for the Commission to examine the issues regarding the Greek Government deficit and debt statistics. The Government support the taking of prompt action to rectify the situation in Greece.

Fiscal Responsibility Bill

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The Treasury has today published a revised draft of the Code for Fiscal Stability, updated to reflect the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Bill. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): During the passage of the Planning Act in November 2008, the Government committed to carry out a review to establish the nature and extent of development on garden land. We said that if the evidence confirmed a problem we would look at how best to remedy the situation, provided that any changes should not have the effect of undermining our policy objectives on housing.

I am today publishing the independent research and review carried out by Kingston University, and I can also announce changes I am making today to strengthen national policy advice, making it clearer that the powers to take the decisions on whether to grant applications for development on gardens rest firmly in the hands of local authorities.

The research finds that problems with inappropriate building on back gardens is not a widespread, national or growing problem, and that local authorities can deal successfully with unwanted applications for garden development through the development of specific local policies. The report also finds that the planning inspectorate supports around four out of five of the decisions made by local authorities on such land—especially where local policies are in place.

Based on the conclusions of this independent report, I believe a blanket ban on back garden development—which no local authority advocated—would be wrong, as these are precisely the types of decisions that are best taken locally within an effective planning system that is responsive to the specifics of an area.

However, I do recognise that more needs to be done to reinforce the current policy position and encourage local authorities to take seriously the concerns of communities if development on gardens is a particular concern. So I am today announcing that the Government are strengthening Planning Policy Statement 3 to make clear it that there is no presumption that land that is previously developed is suitable for development, or that all of the curtilage should be developed.

This is an important development, as it reinforces the PPS3 message that local authorities are best placed to consider whether different types of land are suitable for housing. PPS3 retains a focus on brownfield land, where this is suitable for housing.

Local authorities need to be able to defend decisions on any planning application, whether for garden land or otherwise, based on established strong local policies. The report finds that a very small number of the authorities reviewed as part of the work had local policies on back garden development. I have therefore asked the Government's chief planner to write to every local authority in England today to remind them about the issues they should take into account when considering the use of garden land for development and whether or not this is a local problem for their area.

I am also committed to collecting better data on the use of gardens for housing, and work is underway with Ordnance Survey to improve land use change statistics.

I have placed a copy of the report and the data received in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Defence Information Infrastructure Contract

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): On the 18 December 2009 the Ministry of Defence signed the next programmed critical phase to its incremental contract to deliver the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) Programme which is placed with its delivery partner, the Atlas Consortium. The contract amendment to include DII Increment 3a is worth around £540 million and the cost of ownership of the whole DII programme remains unchanged at £7.1 billion.

DII Increment 3a will provide a further 42,000 computer terminals operating in the restricted and secret domains at the remaining MOD permanent sites, replacing outdated legacy IT systems with improved capability to meet the current and future threats to the UK and its allies. Increment 3a will provide enhanced capability to around 60,000 personnel, notably within the RAF, at Joint Helicopter Command and at other defence locations.

DII is the largest defence IT programme of its type in the world and is already delivering operational benefits to the UK's front-line troops and to the wider Department. Once delivered in full, DII will provide a single, secure and coherent IT infrastructure across the whole of defence, providing support to some 300,000 users, using around 140,000 computer terminals. Through delivery, DII will ensure essential IT operational capability is maintained and enhanced to meet the challenges defence must be prepared for. The overall DII contract currently runs to 2015.

DII is on track to deliver estimated benefits to the Department in excess of £1.6 billion over the 10 years of the contract.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Inland Waterways

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): I will today place copies of the consultation document setting out the Government's proposed strategy for Inland Waterways of England and Wales—"Waterways for Everyone" in the Libraries of both Houses. A copy of the consultation document and details of how to respond to the consultation can be found on DEFRA's website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waterways/index.htm.

"Waterways for Everyone" sets out the Governments proposals for an updated strategy for the inland waterways of England and Wales. This builds on the Government's 2000 strategy "Waterways for Tomorrow" and sets out our approach to further enhance the public benefits provided by our inland waterways through widening the involvement of stakeholders and potential beneficiaries in the management and development of the waterways.

"Waterways for Everyone" also demonstrates the valuable contribution that the inland waterways can make to a wide range of public policy objectives. These include place making and shaping, climate change mitigation and sustainable transport, health, well-being, recreation and sport, tourism and business development and developing fairer, stronger and more active communities.

HEALTH

Safeguarding Adults

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): Safeguarding vulnerable adults who are at risk of harm sits at the heart of Government. Those who need safeguarding help are often elderly and frail, living on their own in the community, or without much family support in care homes; they are often people with physical or learning disabilities, and people with mental health needs at risk of suffering harm both in institutions and in the community. It is to these and to many others that Government have a duty of safeguarding.

Safeguarding encompasses three key concepts: protection, justice and empowerment. Government have an important role in the protection of members of the public from harm—before harm has happened and after it has happened. This includes ensuring that services and support are delivered in ways that are high quality and safe. Government have an important role in facilitating justice where vulnerable adults become the victims of crime; and finally, Government have a role in the empowerment of people at risk: to empower them to recognise, avoid and stop harm; to empower them to make decisions based on informed choices, to balance taking risks with quality of life decisions; and to empower people if they have been harmed, to heal and to live with self-confidence and self determination.

"No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse" was Government guidance on safeguarding, issued in 2000. In 2008-09 a national consultation exercise was held, in which some 12,000 people took part. Many sent us detailed responses; others wrote us very personal letters about their own experiences. Safeguarding partnerships met and discussed many of the 100 questions we posed; they debated and analysed and explored the issues with commitment, with passion and with dedication. Rarely have so many different professionals—social workers, police officers, nurses, housing officers, lawyers and voluntary sector workers—all responded to the same consultation. We are grateful to all who responded and we have listened carefully to the views expressed. A summary of responses was published on 17 July 2009. This written ministerial statement sets out the Government's programme of actions in response to the consultation.

There were a number of key messages from the consultation. These included that stronger national leadership was needed, that local arrangements should be placed on a statutory basis; and that revision and updating is needed to the "No Secrets" guidance. Our plans respond to all these points.

Around 3,000 people participated in the consultation as members of the public, as users of social care and health care, including some who had suffered abuse in some form. Of the wide-ranging views expressed, first and foremost was that the voice of vulnerable people needed to be heard much more than it currently is. Vulnerable people wanted to be heard in safeguarding policy and practice and in situations where they were victims of harm. We will reflect these views very carefully in developing our response.

First, the Government will establish an Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group (IDMG) on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. This group will include Ministers from the Department of Health, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, the Attorney-General's Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Inter-Departmental Ministerial group will demonstrate Government commitment to the issue of safeguarding vulnerable adults; provide national leadership; co-ordinate Government policy and set the framework for effective local arrangements. We plan to have the first meeting in March. The IDMG will have three roles. It will:

i) determine policy and work priorities for the forthcoming year;

ii) provide a strategic and co-ordination role; and

iii) provide public and parliamentary advocacy for this policy area.

Secondly, the Government will introduce new legislation to strengthen the local governance of safeguarding by putting Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing.

Local Safeguarding Adults Boards bring together the key agencies that have a part to play in safeguarding—particularly social services, the national health service and the police, but also other organisations. They are one of the main drivers in effective safeguarding arrangements founded on effective partnership and joint working. An effective board provides clear leadership and helps individual organisations develop complementary safeguarding and empowerment strategies.

Safeguarding Adults Boards exist in many parts of the country, but they are not mandatory and their effectiveness is variable. A key message from the consultation was that local leadership and scrutiny of safeguarding needs to be improved and strengthened. The Government will therefore introduce legislation to put Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing, to ensure that effective leadership and co-ordination in this important area is assured for all vulnerable people wherever they live.

Thirdly, the Government are launching a programme of work with representative agencies and stakeholders to support effective policy and practice in safeguarding vulnerable adults.

We will produce in the autumn, new, comprehensive, multi-agency guidance to set out clearly the roles and responsibilities for all those involved in safeguarding vulnerable adults. This will be built on and bring together targeted guidance and support materials, which will be developed in the coming months, including:

a guide to the law on safeguarding, to help professionals understand and effectively use the range of legal powers that can prevent and deal with harm—including the Criminal Justice Act 1988, the Fraud Act, the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, and the Mental Capacity Act 2005;

targeted guidance and toolkits for specific professionals, including general practitioners, nurses, housing staff and police officers; and

the Association of Chief Police Officers has set up a working group under the umbrella of the economic crime portfolio to lead a programme of work to improve our response to financial crime against vulnerable adults. Work is currently underway to complete an intelligence assessment with additional work to follow to further aid those involved at the frontline.

Finally, I wish to thank those on the advisory group and those in the local safeguarding partnerships who have helped us in this review of safeguarding. We will continue to draw on the expertise and views of relevant organisations and stakeholders, through a newly convened advisory board, as we develop the full programme of work to see through the plan of action announced today.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Retailers

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): The Home Office has today published the Government's response to the consultation on the new code of practice for alcohol retailers. The consultation ran from May to August 2009 and invited responses from the public, the licensed trade, enforcement agencies and health bodies. More than 7,000 responses were received from across a range of respondents and independently analysed.

The Government's response to this consultation has been published on the Home Office website, and can be read at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/alcohol-related-crime/index.html.

A copy will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

We are committed to reducing alcohol related crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour on a number of fronts, including educating young people, campaigns encouraging people to drink more responsibly, and tough enforcement when those who drink too much cause harm to themselves and others. We also need those who retail alcohol to work in partnership with Government, the police and local authorities to reduce these risks. The majority of alcohol retailers behave responsibly, but a minority conduct irresponsible promotions or practices—the mandatory code will stop these where they take place.

Subject to the parliamentary timetable, we intend to introduce the following mandatory licensing conditions that will apply to pubs, clubs and hotels and other "on-licensed" premises:

banning irresponsible promotions, such as drinking games, speed drinking, women drink for free, and all you can drink for £10;

banning pouring drinks directly into the mouths of customers;

ensuring free tap water for customers; and

ensuring that all on trade premises offer small measures of beers, wine and spirits to customers.

In addition, we will also introduce a mandatory licensing condition to ensure that all those who sell or supply alcohol have an age verification policy in place requiring them to ask anyone who looks under 18 for proof of age by providing appropriate identification.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Haiti Earthquake

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): An earthquake of magnitude 7.0 struck Haiti, near the capital Port-au-Prince at 16:53 local time on 12 January. Numerous significant aftershocks followed the initial quake. This is a major international humanitarian disaster and a tragedy for the people of Haiti. In Port-au-Prince, the tremors destroyed more than 20 per cent. of buildings. At the epicentre 10 miles away, 80 to 90 per cent. of buildings were damaged. It is clear that the scale of the human tragedy is enormous. UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon said that the Haitian emergency was the "most serious humanitarian crisis faced by the United Nations" in decades, surpassing those caused by the Asian tsunami, the recent Pakistan earthquake and cyclone Nargis in Burma.

The Haitian Interior Minister has estimated that the death toll could reach 200,000 with many more injured and an estimated 3 million people affected. The United Nations estimates that at least 2 million of these people will require immediate relief assistance for the next six months. So far, we know of one British citizen who has lost his life in the earthquake, Frederick Wooldridge, who worked for the UN Mission in Haiti. We pay tribute to the important work of Mr. Wooldridge and others like him in the UN Stabilisation Mission, working for the security and stability of Haiti. We have received reports that other British nationals are missing but do not have any further information to give at this stage.

The Department for International Development's response began within an hour of the earthquake and we had an assessment team in the air within 10 hours. Relief agencies are having to overcome enormous challenges to get help into the affected areas and we share their frustration and the urgency of meeting desperate needs. Damage sustained by the main airport in Port-au-Prince, together with air traffic control restrictions, meant that getting into Haiti was difficult. The British Government's own search and rescue team of 64 people were in the neighbouring Dominican Republic in the early hours of the morning of Thursday 14 January. The first UK search and rescue team was established in Port-au-Prince on 14 January and since then have been searching for trapped people. They have so far rescued three people alive from the debris and helped treat many more. I would like to pay particular tribute to the professionalism and dedication of our team in Haiti, made up of members of the UK Fire and Rescue Service as well as volunteer medical staff, and DFID staff.

DFID announced an initial contribution of £6.2 million on 14 January. These funds are already providing immediate relief in the form of the 64-person UK search and rescue team; £1 million to help the UN's humanitarian agency provide 30 or more staff to help with co-ordination; £2 million for the World Food Programme for logistical support, including trucks and other vehicles, and humanitarian base camps, to get assistance to those in need in Port-au-Prince and remote areas; £1 million for the Red Cross to support urgent medical care; and £300,000 to World Health Organisation for disease surveillance work.

DFID announced a tripling of funding to £20 million on 18 January and we will make further funding decisions based on the ongoing assessment of needs and discussion with the United Nations and Government of Haiti. We have agreed to help the Red Cross fly supplies from Panama into Haiti over the coming days. We are considering options for how the UK could deliver further relief supplies to Haiti.

A shortage of trucks and fuel, exacerbated by the airport's limited capacity to receive, warehouse, and dispatch relief supplies, continues to hamper relief efforts in and around Port-au-Prince, although road access from the Dominican Republic is possible and the port at Cap Haitian in the north of Haiti is operating. Getting food in through shattered infrastructure is an enormous problem. This is why we have made an early contribution to the World Food Programme for logistical support.

Needs are huge with food shortages in many areas, but food distribution is accelerating, with the World Food Programme distributing emergency rations to over 70,000 people yesterday (Monday), up from 20,000 on Friday. Large numbers of doctors and other health staff are arriving. There are at least nine field hospitals operational in Haiti as well as a 1,000-bed hospital ship. DFID has provided £200,000 funding for a specialised surgical team from Merlin to operate for the next two weeks in Haiti. The team of 11 medical staff should be on the ground in Haiti later today.

International co-ordination in such disasters rests with the United Nations. However, given the extensive damage to UN headquarters and their loss of staff, they are struggling to meet demands, and the US is bringing vital resources to bear. Our £1 million funding allocation to OCHA is being used to bolster capacity and we have sent a humanitarian adviser to support United Nations operations .The British Government are willing to support further secondments and have offered staff to the World Food Programme. We are also looking at whether practical assistance can be given to the Government of Haiti.

Together with the United Nations, we are working with the US humanitarian teams and military. We have an adviser working in the USAID operations room in Washington liaising with American counterparts. The EU humanitarian working group met to discuss the situation in Haiti on Friday, and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster) attended the EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting yesterday to discuss the immediate humanitarian response and also longer-term recovery and reconstruction. We will support that process and press for strong EU co-ordination and commitment to Haiti.

We are following the security situation very closely, both for our teams and for the wider operation. Ban-Ki-moon yesterday called for an additional 2,000 troops and 1,500 police for the peacekeeping mission. We hope that the UN Security Council will approve this and that these personnel will be mobilised as a matter of urgency.

The challenges that lie ahead are formidable. Access to food, water, shelter and medicines are the immediate concern for the people of Haiti and those involved in the disaster response. Haitians will also need law and order, electricity, and a return to something approximating normality if people are to begin the grieving process and start to rebuild their lives. We did not have a bilateral development programme with Haiti before the earthquake, and our focus will be on ensuring a substantial effort from the EU, World Bank and other multilaterals to provide the long-term reconstruction support that Haiti will need.

JUSTICE

UK Foreign Bribery Strategy

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today laid before the House the UK Foreign Bribery Strategy, CM 7791. Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office, and online at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/foreign-bribery-strategy.htm. This follows my written ministerial statement of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 44WS.

The overarching aim of the strategy is to reduce the involvement of UK nationals and companies in foreign bribery and the harm it causes. Our work is grouped under four strategic objectives: strengthening the law, supporting ethical business, enforcing the law, and international co-operation and capacity building. Throughout, the strategy draws on the wide-range of responsibilities across Departments, devolved Administrations, law enforcement, prosecution authorities and regulatory agencies which contribute to the overarching aim.

This strategy will be implemented and monitored through a Foreign Bribery Strategy Board, made up of officials from across Whitehall Departments, devolved Administrations, law enforcement, prosecution authorities and regulatory agencies. We will measure success through the delivery of specific pieces of work and the UK's performance in international anti-corruption surveys and corporate studies. The work will be informed by continuing dialogue with domestic stakeholders and international partners, and by analysis of trends from overseas corruption assessments and research. We will review the strategy in 2012 in the light of our next OECD evaluation, and provide annual progress updates to Parliament.

Success Fees (Publication Proceedings)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Today I published a consultation paper entitled "Controlling Costs in Defamation Proceedings–Reducing Conditional Fee Agreement Success Fees". The paper sets out the Government's interim proposal to reduce the maximum success fee currently permissible under a conditional fee agreement in defamation proceedings, while it considers Sir Rupert Jackson's "Review Of Civil Litigation Costs", published on 14 January, for longer-term reform.

Conditional fee agreements (CFAs), a type of "no win no fee" agreement, were first made enforceable in 1995 to improve access to justice for consumers of legal services. Changes introduced in the Access to Justice Act 1999 further extended their use and attractiveness to claimants. However, in the light of experience over the past decade, it has become clear that–in publication proceedings in particular–the balance has swung too far in favour of the interests of claimants and against the interests of defendants, for whom access to justice needs to be a reality too.

CFAs allow lawyers to take a case on a "no win no fee" basis. This means that if the case is lost, the lawyer does not get paid. However, if the case is successful, the lawyer can recover his costs as well as an additional uplift or "success fee". The Conditional Fee Agreements Order 2000 currently prescribes the maximum success fee that lawyers can charge at 100 per cent. in all categories of case, including publication proceedings. That 100 per cent. maximum was intended to allow lawyers to cover the costs of those cases which failed with a success fee from those which won. The consultation paper proposes that the maximum permitted success fee in defamation and some other publication proceedings in England and Wales be reduced to 10 per cent..

The Government have been concerned for some time about the impact of high legal costs in defamation proceedings, particularly the impact of 100 per cent. success fees. The Government do not believe that the present maximum success fee for defamation proceedings is justifiable. Evidence shows that the success rate of defamation actions does not justify such a generous success fee. This view is supported by the conclusions of the "Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Final Report", available at:

http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/about_judiciary/cost-review/index.htm.

The proposal in the consultation paper is intended to be an interim measure to complement changes introduced on 1 October 2009 designed to control the costs of individual cases, while the Government give detailed consideration to the recommendations from Sir Rupert Jackson. The proposal to reduce success fees would help reduce the costs further and limit the potential harmful effect that very high costs could have on the publication decisions of publishers.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 20 January 2010

TREASURY

Parliamentary Questions (Costing)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The Treasury has conducted its annual indexation exercise of the cost of oral and written parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The revised costs, which will apply from today, are:

Oral Question £425

Written Questions £154

The disproportionate cost threshold (DCT) will be increased to £800, also with effect from today.

G20 Framework (Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): As part of the new G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth agreed at the Pittsburgh summit, the Treasury has today submitted its national template to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), setting out its national policy frameworks, programmes and projections for the medium term.

This is in accordance with the mutual assessment process agreed by G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at their meeting in St. Andrews in November 2009, which calls on the IMF to help with analysis of how the national and regional policy frameworks of the G20 members fit together.

Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Library of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Family and Relationships Policy

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Strong, stable families are the bedrock of our society. Families give children the love and security they need to grow up and explore the world, and the moral guidance and aspiration to make the most of their talents and be good citizens. And families are where most of us find the support and care necessary for a happy and fulfilling life—as children and adults, parents and grandparents too.

"Support for All: The Family and Relationships" Green Paper seeks to reflect the reality of families today. There have been significant changes in family form and structure; there has been a trend towards smaller families and a growth in the number of step families. Increasing numbers of couples are cohabiting and more children are being born outside of marriage. Roles within the family have also changed with more women going into paid employment and more fathers becoming involved in caring for children.

This Government's conviction is that it is both possible and necessary to develop policies to support all families without intruding into the privacy of family life. This means supporting families to help themselves, ensuring that all public services play their part in supporting strong and resilient family relationships, but also recognising that sometimes relationships fail and that some families need extra help.

Marriage is an important and well-established institution that plays a fundamental role in family life in our society. However, marriage is a personal and private decision for responsible adults, with which politicians should not interfere. The Government support couples who choose to get married: for many families marriage offers the best environment in which to raise children, and remains the choice of the majority of people in Britain.

But families come in all shapes and sizes these days and the evidence is clear that stable and loving relationships between parents and with their children are vital for their progress and well-being. This was confirmed in the "Families in Britain: An Evidence Paper". The Government are therefore strongly committed to supporting all parents, grandparents and carers in sustaining strong and resilient relationships.

This Green Paper sets out a wide range of measures to support all families as they bring up their children and to help families cope with times of stress and difficulty. They recognise that while all families need some help, there are families in our society with complex needs and others who require additional—and sometimes non-negotiable—support. Some of the policy proposals can be implemented straight away; others are for consultation or will take longer to put into place.

This policy is informed by "Families in Britain: An evidence paper", published by my Department and the Prime Minister's strategy unit in 2008, as well as by many other pieces of independent research, carried out both here and abroad during the last 10 years. It has also been influenced by discussions with experts and leading voluntary organisations; and by the views and experiences of families themselves.

All the proposals set out in this paper have been developed with a view to supporting stronger, more resilient families, who can help themselves and stronger, safer communities where families help each other.

The consultation will remain open until 21 April 2010.

Copies of this paper are available in the Libraries of both Houses and available electronically at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/supportforall.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance 2010-11

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Barbara Follett): I have today laid before the House the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2010-11. This report establishes the amounts of revenue support grant (RSG) and non-domestic rates (NDR) to be paid to local authorities in 2010-11, and the basis of their distribution. A draft of this report was issued for consultation on 26 November 2009.

We received a total of 65 written responses from 58 individual authorities and formal and informal groupings of authorities during the consultation, and I met delegations from the Local Government Association, London Councils, and the County Councils Network.

Having considered the views of the local authority associations and others who have commented on the provisional settlement, I have decided to confirm my proposals on the basis of distribution of formula grant for 2010-11.

The final figures published today for 2010-11 confirm those originally published in January 2008. In line with Government's policy on multi-year settlements, it has always been clear that the settlement for 2010-11—as the third year of a three-year settlement—would not be changed from that previously published other than in exceptional circumstances. Having fully considered all the representations received during consultation I have not found such exceptional circumstances.

The overall settlement represents a continued real-terms increase in investment in local government, which will allow authorities to continue to deliver improving services at an affordable cost. Total formula grant for 2010-11 will be £747 million, or 2.6 per cent., higher than in 2009-10 on a like-for-like basis. Specific grants, such as the Dedicated Schools Grant, are on top of these figures and bring the total increase in funding for local authorities to 4 per cent. in 2010-11. In our first 10 years up to 2007-08 we increased total Government grant by 39 per cent. in real terms. This provided 10 straight years of above inflation increases in Government grant for authorities overall. Over the current spending review period, we are providing an additional £8.6 billion to local government, an average 4 per cent. cash increase per year.

I have also laid an order for the House's approval to cap Warwickshire police authority in advance for 2010-11, at a budget requirement which equates to council tax increases of around 3 per cent. in both 2009-10 and 2010-11. I am also putting all authorities on notice that the Government will not hesitate to cap any excessive council tax increases set by individual authorities in 2010-11 and that it would be a mistake for any authority to presume they will not be capped if they stay within the capping principles which applied in 2009-10. We have already initiated capping action against three police authorities in advance for 2010-11 to limit their council tax increases to around 3 per cent. No other decisions have been taken on capping for 2010-11, but we have made clear that we expect the average Band D council tax increase in England to fall to a 16-year low. The Government have maintained the three-year settlement in challenging economic circumstances and there can be no excuse for any authority setting an excessive council tax increase in 2010-11.

I shall be sending copies of the Local Government Finance Report to all local authorities in England, and making available full supporting information on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1011/grant.htm.

Copies of the report and related tables showing each authority's allocation of formula grant and other supporting material have been placed in the Vote Office.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister responsible for the marine and the natural environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 14 and 16 December. Richard Lochhead MSP and Michelle Gildernew MLA also attended.

On fisheries, Council agreed the annual fishing opportunities regulation for 2010 which sets fishing quota and effort limits, principally for the North sea, Irish sea, Channel, and Atlantic. Discussions were narrower than in previous years as technical and control measures are no longer included in this measure, since they are now subject to co-decision with the European Parliament. However, the recent failure of talks between the EU and Norway on the annual fisheries agreement meant that the regulation would need to find an interim mechanism to allow fishing of the stocks concerned. This led to unexpected complexity and difficulty in the final negotiations.

The major points of interest to the UK in the final compromise included:

commitments to the implementation of incentive catch quota, the detail to be determined following an EU-Norway agreement;

only a 9 per cent. reduction in Irish sea nephrops;

a quota reduction of 25 per cent. in West of Scotland Haddock (with 25 per cent. in 2011);

a quota reduction of 5 per cent. for Western Channel sole;

a 10 per cent. increase in quotas for North sea and West of Scotland megrim;

no reduction in Celtic sea cod quota;

a rollover of quota for North sea nephrops;

agreement from the European Commission to look again at the technical measures re-imposed on the West of Scotland at the November Council.

Following a ministerial lunch on animal health, discussions then turned to the substantive agriculture items. First, the Council took note of the Commission's report on options for animal welfare labelling and animal welfare reference centres; which was followed by a brief state of play report from the presidency on the negotiations to agree a revision to the current rules governing the welfare of laboratory animals (expressing confidence that a deal could be struck with the European Parliament early in 2010).

Continuing a trend of set-piece discussions on the future of the CAP, the Commission then presented its views on rural development policy post-2013 (it should be greener, and better aligned with the Lisbon strategy), noting in summary that it saw no justification for continuing to finance Pillar II via modulation. Member states broadly welcomed the Commission's thoughts.

Next, Council unanimously approved requests for state aid for agricultural restructuring from Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary. The UK, Denmark, Czech Republic, Estonia, Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Austria abstained.

Council then reached partial political agreement on the timber due diligence regulation, though with further work needed on comitology provisions. The UK, Denmark, Spain and Belgium abstained, with the Netherlands voting against, because the final compromise did not include an express prohibition of the placing of illegally logged timber on the Community market. The dossier would now be handed over to future presidencies, starting with Spain, to handle negotiations with the European Parliament.

Ministers took the opportunity to comment on the Commission's work on the 39 simplification proposals they had presented during the CZ presidency. A number of the proposals had been addressed, but others had not been taken up. Denmark tabled a letter suggesting further discussions on the outstanding proposals at a political level. There was general support for two UK concerns: (1) that the Commission needed to be more joined-up and look at burdens on farmers beyond DG Agri and include DG Sanco and DG Environment; and (2) that the Commission should take a more risk-based approach to audits and controls, including the way penalties were applied. Work on this dossier would continue.

The Commission then presented the latest instalment of its dairy market quarterly report noting that both commodity prices and farm gate prices had risen, that EU production remained lower than in 2008, and that the market was likely to be in balance in 2010. They also made reference to the recently established dairy fund, as well as to deliberations on improving the dairy supply chain in the high-level group, as measures aimed at ameliorating the dairy crisis. The UK welcomed the positive trends and rising prices detailed in the report, urged the Council and Commission to focus on modernising the sector in preparation for the abolition of dairy quotas.

The Commission presented its communication on a better functioning food supply chain, a follow-up to last December's report on food prices to the European Council. Its aim was to examine the contractual relations across the chain, to monitor the development of competition issues, and to provide the basis for further in-depth discussions during the Spanish presidency.

Under any other business:

The presidency presented its report of the conference of the EU paying agencies;

Poland called for abolition of the sugar production charge (the UK argued against with Commission support);

Slovakia called for transitional aid in the sugar sector to be targeted at the affected producers;

The Commission informed Council of its recent agreement with the US and Latin countries, resolving long-standing banana disputes;

Council took note of the progress made to update on EU food labelling rules;

The Commission gave an update on the ongoing difficult negotiations with Russia on sanitary and phytosanitary issues;

The Netherlands informed Council of the outcome of a conference on GM policy held in the Netherlands from 25 and 26 November.

Equine Infectious Anaemia

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I wish to inform to the House that on 19 January 2010 the chief veterinary officer for the United Kingdom confirmed equine infectious anaemia (EIA) in two horses in Wiltshire following importation from Romania via Belgium.

Two premises are currently under restriction and the two infected horses will be humanely destroyed in line with existing regulations.

The animals arrived in a group of 10 horses, nine of which originated from Romania and one from Belgium. The nine Romanian horses were tested for EIA as part of routine post-import testing. Two of the horses tested positive, the remaining seven tested negative. The horse that originated in Belgium will be tested later today. As part of our control measures we will be undertaking a detailed epidemiological investigation.

The risk of further spread among horses is considered by experts to be very low, but this will be kept under review pending further epidemiological investigation. Expert advice from the Health Protection Agency is that EIA is not a risk to human health and that there is no evidence that this incident presents a risk to the local community.

This is the first case of equine infectious anaemia infected animals being imported into Great Britain since 1976 and shows the success of our post import testing regime. These were apparently healthy horses carrying a notifiable disease that we are keen to keep out of Great Britain.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration and Nationality Services (Charges)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department is today laying regulations for the fees for immigration and nationality services that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service. The Government review the fees on a regular basis and makes appropriate changes as necessary. We have continued with our strategic approach to charging; setting certain fees above cost on the basis of the value of the service.

These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the affirmative procedure. The fees for these applications allow us to generate revenue which is used to fund the UK immigration system and to set certain fees below cost recovery to support wider Government objectives. The revenue generated will contribute towards the development and delivery of the new points based system, the rollout of ID cards for foreign nationals and investment in IT capability both overseas and in the UK. This coming year we will continue to strengthen that capability in underpinning technology and process improvement. For transparency, I have included the estimated unit cost for each route, so that it is clear the degree to which certain routes are set above cost.

We have succeeded in limiting the extent of our general increases, by taking a more targeted approach to fees adjustment which is consistent with both the UK Border Agency's strategic charging principles, and also with broader Government objectives. We have made several amendments to the UK settlement fees and we have proposed a nominal 10 per cent. fee for all applications for UK-based dependants to reflect the fact that each individual brings a processing cost to us. Full details of all fees changes are outlined in the explanatory memorandum accompanying these regulations.

Finally we will continue to generate revenue to fund the transitional impacts of migration. The migration impacts fund has played a vital role in helping ease the pressures on certain communities.

I am publishing today the fees for immigration and nationality services that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service alongside these regulations. I will announce our proposals for the fees for immigration and nationality fees that are set below the administrative costs of the service when we lay negative regulations in February 2010.

Full details on how to apply for all of these services will be provided on our website, www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

A table of fees for 2010-11 for immigration and nationality services that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service is set out below:

Visa Fees

Products	*2009-10 Fees (£)*	*Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11*	*Proposed Fee for 2010-11*
Non PBS Visas			
Long-term visit visa (up to 2 yr)	215	140	230
Long-term visit visa (up to 5 yr)	400	141	420
Long-term visit visa (up to 10 yr)	500	155	610
Settlement visa*	585	249	644
Settlement Visa*- Dependent Relative	585	272	1680
Other visa	215	115	230
PBS Visas			
T1 (General, Investor/ Entrepreneur)*	675	332	690
T1 (General/Entrepreneur) CESC*	615	332	629
T2*	265	197	270
T2 (CESC)*	245	196	250

*The fees for these applications include a contribution of £50 to the migration impacts fund.

IN UK – Leave to Remain and Nationality Fees

Products	*2009-10 Fees (£)*	*Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11*	*Proposed Fee for 2010-11*	*Dependants Fee*
NON PBS ROUTES - Migrants Inside UK				
ILR Postal*	820	341	840	129
ILR PEO*	1020	256	1095	154
ILR Postal (CESC)*	750	341	767	121
ILR PEO (CESC)*	920	256	992	144
ILR Dependant Relative (Postal)*	820	341	1680	213
ILR Dependant Relative (PEO)*	1020	256	1930	238
Leave to Remain Non Student Postal*	465	419	475	92
Leave to Remain Non Student PEO*	665	348	730	118
FLR (I ED) Postal*	400	210	400	85
FLR(IED)PEO*	600	210	650	110
FLR (BUS)*	800	210	800	125
Transfer of Conditions PEO	515	341	578	57
Mobile Biometric Enrolment and Case-working (Premium+)	0	1982	15,000	N/A
Nationality applications - Migrants Inside UK				
Nationality 6(1) Single*	640	208	655	N/A
Nationality 6(1) Joint*	690	231	770	N/A
Nationality 6(2)*	640	208	655	N/A
Nationality Registration Adult*	460	208	470	N/A
Nationality Registration Single Minors*	460	208	470	N/A
Nationality Registration Multiple Minors*	510	255	567	97

* The fees for these applications include a contribution of £50 per person to the migration impacts fund.

IN – UK PBS Fees

Products	*2009-10 Fees (£)*	*Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11*	*Proposed Fee for 2010-11*	*Dependants Fee*
PBS - Migrants Inside UK				
T1 (General) - Postal*	820	317	840	129
T1 (General) - PEO*	1020	288	1095	154
T1 (General/Entrepreneur) CESC Postal*	750	317	767	121
T1 (General/Entrepreneur) CESC PEO*	920	288	992	144
T1 (Invs or Ent) - Postal*	820	354	840	129
T1 (Invs or Ent) - PEO*	1020	446	1095	154
T1 (Post Study) - Postal	500	317	550	100
T1 (Post Study) - PEO*	700	325	800	125
Tier 1 (Transition) Postal*	400	259	408	85
Tier 1 (Transition) PEO*	600	275	663	111
T2 - Postal*	465	344	475	92
T2 - PEO*	665	330	730	118
T2 CESC Postal*	425	344	434	88
T2 CESC PEO*	605	330	669	111
T4 - PEO*	565	374	628	107
T5 - PEO	515	369	578	57
T5 CESC PEO	460	380	521	52

*The fees for these applications include a contribution of £50 per person to the migration impacts fund.

PBS Sponsorship and Certificate of Sponsorship Fees

Products	*2009-10 Fees (£)*	*Estimated Unit Cost for 2010-11*	*Proposed 2010-11 fees (£)*
PBS Sponsorship and CoS Fees			
T2 Sponsor licence - medium/large business	1000	880	1000
T2&4 Sponsor licence - medium/large business	1000	950	1000
T2&5 Sponsor licence - medium/large business	1000	880	1000
T2, 4 & 5 Sponsor licence - medium/large business	1000	950	1000
T2 Certificate of Sponsorship	170	25	170

Police Authority Grant

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, has today laid before the House the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2010-11 (HC 278), copies of which are available in the Vote Office. The report sets out my right hon. Friend's determination for 2010-11 of the aggregate amount of grant that he proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996, and the amount to be paid to the Greater London Authority for the Metropolitan Police Authority.

General police grant allocations, which include Home Office Police Grant and Department of Communities and Local Government/Welsh Assembly Government General Grant for each police authority for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out in the table.

Police Authority	*2009-10 Formula Allocation[1] £m*	*2010-11 Allocation[1] £m*	*Change on 2009-10 Formula Allocation %*
English Shire Authorities			
Avon & Somerset	179.7	186.1	3.5%
Bedfordshire	70.8	73.1	3.3%
Cambridgeshire	81.0	83.5	3.0%
Cheshire	120.5	123.5	2.5%
Cleveland	97.7	100.1	2.5%
Cumbria	67.2	68.9	2.5%
Derbyshire	112.6	116.2	3.1%
Devon & Cornwall	186.4	191.1	2.5%
Dorset	65.3	66.9	2.5%
Durham	91.4	93.7	2.5%
Essex	177.9	183.1	2.9%
Gloucestershire	59.3	60.8	2.5%
Hampshire	207.5	213.0	2.7%
Hertfordshire	121.2	124.9	3.0%
Humberside	128.4	131.8	2.6%
Kent	192.1	197.4	2.7%
Lancashire	204.1	209.7	2.7%

Police Authority	*2009-10 Formula Allocation*[1] *£m*	*2010-11 Allocation*[1] *£m*	*Change on 2009-10 Formula Allocation %*
Leicestershire	118.0	121.4	2.9%
Lincolnshire	64.3	66.3	3.2%
Norfolk	87.6	89.8	2.5%
North Yorkshire	76.7	78.6	2.5%
Northamptonshire	75.5	77.5	2.7%
Nottinghamshire	141.4	146.0	3.3%
Staffordshire	120.6	123.8	2.7%
Suffolk	71.0	72.7	2.5%
Surrey	101.8	104.4	2.5%
Sussex	169.8	174.1	2.5%
Thames Valley	238.2	244.7	2.8%
Warwickshire	54.1	55.6	2.7%
West Mercia	121.8	124.9	2.5%
Wiltshire	65.2	66.8	2.5%
Shires Total	3669.0	3770.0	2.8%
English Metropolitan Authorities			
Greater Manchester	458.9	472.5	3.0%
Merseyside	267.4	274.3	2.6%
Northumbria	249.9	256.2	2.5%
South Yorkshire	204.1	209.2	2.5%
West Midlands	486.1	504.3	3.8%
West Yorkshire	339.2	350.5	3.3%
Mets Total	2005.7	2067.1	3.1%
London Authorities			
GLA - Police	1978.3	2027.7	2.5%
City of London[2]	21.0	21.8	N/A
English Total	7674.0	7886.6	2.8%
Welsh Authorities			
Dyfed-Powys[3]	54.4	55.8	2.5%
Gwent[3]	82.6	84.7	2.5%
North Wales[3]	80.1	82.1	2.5%
South Wales[3]	181.5	186.4	2.7%
Welsh Total	398.6	409.0	2.6%
TOTAL	8072.6	8295.7	2.7%

Notes

[1] Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance (No.2 - Provisional Settlement Police Authorities) Report (Wales). Table includes the effects of floors and scaling.[2] Figures for the City of London relate to Home Office Grant only as calculated in the Police Grant Report (England and Wales). Revenue Support Grant is allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The City is grouped with education authorities for the purposes of grant floors.

[3] Welsh figures include Home Office floor funding.

JUSTICE

Family Justice Review

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the launch of a review of the family justice system in England and Wales.

The family justice system involves life changing decisions for many thousands of children and their families each year at a cost to the taxpayer of over £800 million. There have been some important elements of reform in recent years. But we need to be certain that the system, as it is currently set up, supports parents as fully as possible in establishing and maintaining a co-operative approach to agreeing future arrangements when relationships break down, and does not unwittingly cause additional stress at what will already be a difficult time. It is also important to ensure that valuable court time is focused on protecting the vulnerable from abuse, victimisation and exploitation and that the system is being managed as effectively as possible.

We have therefore decided to initiate a review of the family justice system and have secured the agreement of the Welsh Assembly Government that, where appropriate, the review shall encompass the devolved functions of Welsh Ministers. Gwenda Thomas, Deputy Minister for Social Services, has made a similar statement to the National Assembly for Wales.

The review will be conducted by a panel, comprising four representatives independent of Government and senior representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Welsh Assembly Government as relevant for devolved matters.

The review will be asked to make recommendations in two core areas: (1) what steps can be taken to promote informed settlement and agreement; and (2) whether improvements need to be made to the way in which the family justice system is managed.

It will be guided by the following principles:

The interests of the child should be paramount in any decision affecting them (and, linked to this, delays in determining the outcome of court applications should be kept to a minimum).

The court's role should be focused on protecting the vulnerable from abuse, victimisation and exploitation and should avoid intervening in family life except where there is clear benefit to children and vulnerable adults in doing so.

Individuals should have the right information and support to enable them to take responsibility for the consequences of their relationship breakdown.

Mediation and similar support should be used as far as possible to support individuals themselves to reach agreement about arrangements, rather than having an arrangement imposed by the courts.

The processes for resolving family disputes and agreeing future arrangements should be easy to understand, simple and efficient.

Conflict between individuals should be minimised as far as possible.

Copies of the full terms of reference have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

We have asked for the review panel to provide a final report to us, as well as the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Health and Social Services, in 2011.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 21 January 2010

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Roulement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): In his statement to the House on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 835, the Prime Minister announced the UK's conventional military forces in Afghanistan comprise 9,500 personnel. That will be maintained with the next roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan, due to take place in April 2010. Headquarters, 6 (UK) Division will remain as Headquarters, Regional Command (South) but the current lead formation in Helmand, 11 (Light) Brigade, will be replaced by 4th Mechanised Brigade, which will command the majority of the units serving in Afghanistan. The forces deploying include:

Headquarters, 6 (UK) Division
4th Mechanised Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (204)
Elements of 52 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (258)
Headquarters, 101 Logistic Brigade
Headquarters, 102 Logistic Brigade
Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 857 Naval Air Squadron
40 Commando Royal Marines
The Royal Dragoon Guards
The Queen's Royal Lancers
4th Regiment Royal Artillery
21 Engineer Regiment
1st Battalion The Scots Guards
The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles
3 Medical Regiment
34 Field Hospital
1 Close Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
101 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 47th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support)
Elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)
Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group
Elements of 2 Signal Regiment
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment
Elements of 14th Signals Regiment (Electronic Warfare)
Elements of 16 Signal Regiment
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Elements of 5th Battalion The Rifles
Elements of 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 6 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 7 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 8 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 12 Logistic Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 23 Pioneer Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 27 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Military Police
101 Provost Company Royal Military Police
150 Provost Company Royal Military Police
Elements of 105 Military Working Dog Support Unit
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of the Military Stabilisation Support Group
Elements of The Honourable Artillery Company
Elements of 100 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)
Elements of 101 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)
Elements of 104 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)
Elements of 106 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)
Elements of 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers)
Elements of 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (Volunteers)
Elements of 4th Battalion The Duke Of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border) (Volunteers)
Elements of The London Regiment (Volunteers)
Elements of 150 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers)
Elements of 159 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers)
Elements of 160 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers)
Elements of 148 Expeditionary Force Institute Squadron (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Number 1 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Number 3 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Number 4 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Number 5 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters
Elements of Number 2 Royal Air Force Police Wing
Elements of Number 3 Royal Air Force Police Wing
2 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
51 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
Elements of 1 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
Elements of 3 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
2 Squadron, Royal Air Force

9 Squadron, Royal Air Force
13 Squadron, Royal Air Force
14 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5 (Army Co-Operation) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 24 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 27 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 28 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 78 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of the Tactical Supply Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Mobility Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Control Centre, Royal Air Force
Elements of 90 Signals Unit, Royal Air Force
Elements of 2 (Mechanical Transport) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 3 Mobile Catering Squadron
Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of 1 (Expeditionary Logistics) Squadron
Elements of 93 (Expeditionary Armaments) Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Wing

Volunteer and regular members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Afghanistan as part of our integrated force package, and we expect to issue around 700 call-out notices to fill some 600 posts. On completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and, where applicable, integration with their respective receiving units. The majority will serve on operations for six or so months. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 17 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

I shall make a further statement on the units we expect to serve under 4th Mechanised Brigade's planned replacement formation, 16 Air Assault Brigade, nearer the time of their deployment.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister responsible for marine and the natural environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) and the Minister responsible for food, farming and environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 20 November. Richard Lochhead MSP and Michelle Gildernew MLA also attended. Due to the European Council, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council was shortened to one day, with the majority of agriculture business now being taken in December.

On agriculture, the Council approved Poland's state aid application enabling farmers to purchase agricultural land. The UK, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Spain, Netherlands, Austria, Germany all abstained, agreeing with the Commission that the application was not justified, and on the overriding of state aid rules, but stopped short of blocking the application. Latvia and Hungary would now bring similar applications for approval at the December Agriculture Council.

There was a brief discussion to clarify member states' voting intentions with regard to the authorisation of GM maize for use in the EU. There was no qualified majority in favour of the authorisation and the proposal will now revert to Commission competence and be adopted.

A number of issues were raised under any other agriculture business. Belgium and France requested that export refunds for the fresh and frozen pigmeat be reactivated. Only the UK and Malta expressed dissatisfaction with the use of such market management measures. The Commission sympathised with the request but also did not agree with reactivating export refunds.

France outlined its support for the Commission's forthcoming Green Paper on forest protection, emphasising the importance of taking a holistic approach—covering everything from the benefits that forests bring in respect of climate change to forest-based industries. A number of member states supported, including the UK, emphasising the importance of the EU forest action plan and a member state led-approach. The Commission agreed.

France requested more details about the parameters within which the Commission intended to prepare for and conduct the forthcoming WTO ministerial conference. The Commission emphasised that these were regular events, and that trade colleagues within the Council were informed of the Commission's approach.

Hungary, supported by the Czech Republic and Slovakia, presented a paper seeking to resurrect a proposal, previously rejected through comitology, that sheep and goats going direct to slaughter on intra-Community trade do not have to be electronically identified. The UK also intervened to sympathise, and while making it clear that it would not go back on its agreement not to seek further changes, urged the Commission to thoroughly review implementation of the regulation at the earliest opportunity.

With regard to fisheries, and the technical conservation measures regulation, Council reached political agreement (with the UK and Ireland voting against) on an interim compromise for 18 months only of the current annual provisions governing mesh sizes, gear types and catch composition, having failed to agree the main framework proposal. This was in the context of the impending entry into force of the Lisbon treaty which would require co-decision with the European Parliament on this aspect of fisheries. An absence of any decision would have left a legal gap on such technical measures from 1 January 2010 given current measures are in the annual fishing opportunities regulation which will remain as a Council only decision.

The UK and Ireland worked very hard in bilaterals with the presidency and the Commission to find an acceptable solution. The Commission was inflexible, claiming that the relaxation of the relevant catch composition measures would be detrimental to haddock stocks. The UK asserted that this had no effect on fishing mortality and merely led to increased discarding. Regrettably, the presidency was not able to accept UK and Irish requests and a final compromise was agreed with no concessions offered. Agreement was reached by qualified majority, with the final formal adoption by written procedure by 30 November.

The Commission then updated the Council on the progress of the annual fisheries negotiations with Norway. They explained that the negotiations were particularly difficult this year after the Community's decision not to allow Norway to access mackerel in the North sea. It is therefore possible that the negotiations will carry on into 2010 or even fail completely with the danger of a precipitate rush to fish quotas and no access to each other's waters. The UK underlined the need for a balanced outcome on mackerel and the need for progress on the Danish discards initiative.

Next, the proposal fixing the 2010 total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for the Black sea was agreed. The TAC for turbot was increased to 96 tonnes from the 76 proposed by the Commission (a 4 per cent. reduction, not 24 per cent.) on condition that Bulgaria and Romania developed by 15 February 2010 national plans to control the turbot fisheries and landings. The Commission also announced that it would speak to Turkey about its introducing similar measures for turbot.

Finally, there were two issues raised under any other fisheries business. The Commission had tabled a seven page statement outlining their plans to combat seabird by-catch. The UK underlined the importance, calling for the Commission to publish a formal action plan as this would give a chance for a full consultation with stakeholders including the European Parliament.

Italy called for the cut in bluefin tuna quota agreed at the recent International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) meeting to be phased in by 15 per cent. per year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs Council (GAC) and Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) have replaced the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) under the provisions of the Lisbon treaty, which came into force on 1 December 2009. The GAC and FAC will be held on 25 January in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Spanish presidency programme

The Spanish presidency will present its programme and priorities. Supporting Europe's economic recovery, in particular through developing the new EU strategy for jobs and growth (EU 2020), will be a high priority for Spain. The presidency will also focus on the international stage, with a number of full EU summits, and preparation for the UN millennium development goals summit in September. We look to Spain to provide continued EU leadership on climate change and implementing the Copenhagen accord. Finally, Spain will focus on the rights of EU citizens by implementing the Stockholm programme on Justice and Home Affairs and continue work on implementing the Lisbon treaty.

We look forward to working with our Spanish colleagues on such a broad agenda and welcome in particular Spain's focus on economic recovery with a low carbon, social agenda at its core. The EU 2020 strategy will be vital to improving Europe's global competitiveness and we will work to ensure the strategy is ambitious and innovative.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Iran

Ministers will discuss recent developments on the nuclear dossier. Ministers may consider the way forward in the context of the dual track policy, in order to persuade Iran to enter into meaningful negotiations. They will also continue to play close attention to the human rights situation inside Iran.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ministers are likely to consider further the future of EUFOR operation Althea, following a decision at the December FAC to revert to this issue in January. The Government believe that EUFOR makes a vital contribution to stability and security in BiH and should therefore only be reconfigured when the time is right. Ministers will also discuss the broader political situation in BiH. The Government will underline the importance of giving strong support to the High Representative/EU Special Representative in BiH. The Government continue to support the EU/US initiative and to believe that the conditionality set by the Peace Implementation Council must be met before the Office of the High Representative can close.

Somalia

Ministers will discuss a possible CSDP mission to train security forces in Somalia, and may also consider whether to agree to the legal basis for this mission.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

Discussion is likely to focus on the London conference on 28 January and on how to strengthen the EU's engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2010. This might include restructuring the architecture of the EU contribution in Afghanistan, pushing forward the implementation of the EU action plan for Afghanistan and Pakistan, agreed at the October European Council, and cementing plans for a second EU-Pakistan summit, to be held during the Spanish presidency.

Yemen

Ministers will discuss the situation in Yemen. In particular they may focus on how to build on the EU's response to date, following on from conclusions at the October GAERC, including the need for urgent political and economic reform to address Yemen's challenges. The UK will also brief on plans for the meeting on Yemen in London on 27 January.

Ukraine

Ministers may discuss the latest developments, including the first round of the presidential elections held on 17 January. We welcome the fact that the elections have taken place under calm conditions and will continue to urge the contenders in the second round to rely on the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to ensure as trouble-free and conclusive an election as possible. We believe that whoever wins the elections will pursue Ukraine's progress towards European integration. Their challenge will be to make Ukraine's governance work better, which would help European integration proceed more smoothly.

PRIME MINISTER

Surveillance Commissioner

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): In accordance with section 91 of the Police Act 1997, I have agreed to appoint the hon. Sir George Newman as a Surveillance Commissioner from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012. He succeeds the right hon. Sir Philip Otton in this role.

TRANSPORT

Rail Franchises

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis has made the following ministerial statement:

I am today launching public consultations for the new InterCity East Coast, Greater Anglia, and Essex Thameside franchises. The formal accreditation process for bidders for Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside also starts today.

Our overall aim for the new franchises is to continue the existing operations and make improvements based on emerging value for money and affordability requirements.

The InterCity East Coast franchise will build on the new east coast main line timetable that is being introduced in May 2011 to take advantage of planned infrastructure enhancements to enable extra trains to run, to accelerate journey times and to introduce a standard interval clockface timetable. Further major service improvements are proposed from 2016 when super express trains will be introduced, providing more capacity, more frequent trains and shorter journey times. Franchisees will also be asked for proposals to improve the overall passenger experience, including better stations, improved catering and simpler ticketing.

Passengers on the Greater Anglia franchise are set to benefit from longer trains, enhancements at stations, more security and other service improvements. The new franchise operator will have to consider quicker journey times between Norwich and London, improving the performance and reliability of long distance services and introducing minimum catering standards on InterCity trains. They will also set national passenger survey targets for trains, stations and customer service with a requirement to invest more to make improvements in those areas if they fail to meet those targets.

Passengers on the Essex Thameside franchise will benefit from longer trains and better security. The new operator will be expected to provide better service information for passengers and improved facilities at stations, including more secure cycle spaces and additional car parking facilities. They will also be required to monitor service quality and ensure stations and trains are cleaned and maintained to a high standard.

The new Greater Anglia franchise will begin operation on Friday 1 April 2011, Essex Thameside on Sunday 29 May 2011 and InterCity East Coast in autumn 2011. All three franchises are proposed to last for a franchise term of at least 10 years with provisions made to allow the termination of the contracts earlier if the franchise fails to deliver good quality service to passengers. The franchise length may also be extended dependent on proposals to deliver investment and significant passenger benefit. Any such proposals would have to offer good value for money to the taxpayer.

The consultation documents set out the main challenges that the new franchises will face and highlights the key requirements that the Department currently proposes to include within each invitation to tender (ITT). They set out proposals to increase peak capacity and improve security, access to stations and overall service quality.

Responses to the consultations will inform the development of the invitation to tender that bidders for each franchise will be asked to bid against. We expect to publish the ITT for both Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside in summer 2010 and will award these franchises in late 2010 and early 2011. The ITT for InterCity East Coast will be published in autumn 2010. The franchise will be awarded in summer 2011.

Over the coming weeks the Department will be having extensive discussions with local interested stakeholders, via a series of stakeholder meetings.

All three consultations will run until the 19 April 2010. Copies of the consultation documents, as well as the recently published discussion paper on general franchise policy have been placed in the House Library and are available on the Department for Transport website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 25 January 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Minimum Wage (Economic Evidence)

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that the Government have submitted their economic evidence on the national minimum wage to the Low Pay Commission. The commission will take this and all the other evidence received into account when preparing its next report on the minimum wage, which will be submitted to the Government by the end of February 2010.

The economic evidence addresses recent trends in economic and labour market performance, as well as the impact of the national minimum wage on pay, employment and younger workers.

Copies of the Government's economic evidence have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available from the BIS website at www.bis.gov.uk.

The Government submitted their evidence on non-economic issues to the commission in October 2009.

TREASURY

Northern Rock PLC

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I am pleased to inform the House that the planned legal and capital restructuring of Northern Rock, as announced in my Written Ministerial Statement of 8 December 2009, successfully took effect on 1 January 2010. As a result, two new companies are now carrying out the business formerly carried out by Northern Rock–Northern Rock plc, a new savings and mortgage bank and Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc, the existing company (renamed) that holds and services the majority of the existing residential mortgage book.

The Government's actions to stabilise Northern Rock over the past two years have protected the savings and deposits of hundreds of thousands of British families. From 1 January 2010 a healthy new Northern Rock will offer savings and mortgage products, increasing competition in the sector and providing consumers with more choice.

In my statement of 8 December I also promised to provide the House with details of the financial support provided by the Government to support the restructuring of the company.

On 31 December 2009, the Government provided Northern Rock plc with £1.4 billion of capital support in order for the company to meet the Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulatory capital requirements. The Government have also provided a commitment to the FSA that up to £1.6 billion in additional capital support will be provided to Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc, should the need arise, in order for Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc to continue to meet its regulatory capital requirements. These amounts are within the £3 billion of capital support announced by the Government in August 2008.

The outstanding Government loan owed by Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc has been reduced by £12.6 billion, from £26.9 billion as at 31 December 2007 to £14.3 billion at 31 December 2009. The loan increased on 4 January 2010 by £8.5 billion, taking the outstanding loan balance to £22.8 billion, in order for Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc to finance the difference in mortgage assets and retail and wholesale deposit liabilities that were transferred to Northern Rock plc. As previously announced, Northern Rock plc will use the cash it has received from Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc to increase mortgage lending.

The Government are also providing a working capital loan facility to Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc, currently up to £2.5 billion, to help with the orderly wind down of the company. This liquidity facility is similar to the working capital loan facility the Government have provided to Bradford & Bingley plc. The Government expect the loan facilities to Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc to be repaid in full.

The restructuring of Northern Rock has been assessed as the best means of achieving the Government's stated objectives to support financial stability, protect depositors' money and deliver value for money to taxpayers. The restructuring is also part of the Government's policy to encourage and support a well-functioning mortgage market, where lenders lend responsibly, and borrowers have access to a wide range of mortgages that they can afford to repay. At some point in the future, the Government will sell its stake in Northern Rock plc. In any sale, the objectives of the Government will be to promote competition for retail services, secure the best possible return to taxpayers and ensure that Northern Rock plc will continue to increase its lending to homeowners.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Connecting Communities

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): On October 14, I informed Parliament about my plan to reinvigorate and connect with those communities that are feeling the pressure from recession most acutely and ensure they are well placed to share fully in future prosperity and emerge stronger and more cohesive. On 14 December I extended the programme beyond the initial 21 local authorities to 75.

I can today inform Parliament that I am announcing a further extension of the programme to bring the total number of areas receiving targeted help in addressing local issues to 161 across over 100 local authorities.

I am also announcing an additional £20 million of resources for the programme to continue in the next financial year.

The programme is enabling local people to influence, shape and change policies on issues which really matter in their community. It will help to make sure that those people who are feeling the pressure the most are getting a bigger say and a fair deal.

Practical actions delivered on estates and streets will focus on making changes that address local people's concerns, reconnect them with jobs and tackle head on issues—real and perceived—which, left neglected, can prove fertile territory for extremism and those who would divide our communities.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Informal Energy Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

> I represented the United Kingdom at the EU informal Energy Council in Seville on 15 January 2010.
>
> The council began with a wide-ranging discussion on the possible contents of a new "Energy Action Plan" (due in early 2010). Debate focused in particular on two areas highlighted by the presidency's questions: the internal market and low carbon technologies, as well as the need to diversify further the routes and sources of EU energy supplies and ensure consumers were protected.
>
> Discussions on the internal market focused in particular on interconnection and how to ensure the investment which will be required. Member states referred, among other things, to implementation of the third internal energy market package and the role of the Agency for Co-ordination of Energy Regulators (ACER).
>
> On low carbon technologies, renewables and smart grids were consistent themes. Some member states supported specific cross-border projects such as the Mediterranean solar plan and the North seas offshore grid initiative. Other technologies where it was felt EU action might be useful included: electric cars, biomass (in particular developing sustainability criteria) and carbon capture and storage. Most member states also referred to the importance of energy efficiency.
>
> Ministers visited the Abengoa solar plant over lunch. This was followed by presentations on the EU's Strategic Energy Technologies (SET) plan, and on domestic solar energy, biomass and electric vehicles policy from member states. The UK made a short presentation on domestic carbon capture and storage.
>
> The Spanish presidency concluded that there was strong support for progress on an EU Energy Action Plan, as well as further work on the SET Plan, during their presidency.
>
> In the evening, Ministers attended a joint dinner with Environment Ministers, although there was no formal agenda.

EU Informal Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): I represented the United Kingdom at the EU Informal Environment Council in Seville on 16 and 17 January 2010.

The Council programme began with a session on the role of civil society post-Copenhagen. Short speeches from industry, trade union and civil society representatives were followed by ministerial discussion which highlighted the importance of Government, companies, NGOs and civil society working together.

The second item covered environmental governance and technological co-operation which included presidency questions on mercury, international environmental governance and the sixth Environmental Action Programme. The session opened with two presentations from UNEP and the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies. In discussions on international negotiations on mercury, the UK intervened to call on the EU to proceed with caution in seeking to broaden the scope of the legal instrument, in order not to stall the intergovernmental negotiating Committee process. In addition, several member states showed support for the UK view on the need to reform the current international environmental governance system. In relation to the sixth EAP, the UK indicated that any new framework must be based on a comprehensive assessment of where we are now, what will be the challenges of the next 10 years and what are the most appropriate mechanisms to address these challenges.

The final session in the Council programme focused on next steps following Copenhagen. The UK highlighted that it is in the EU's economic and environmental interests to show leadership, and the shared objective now should be to broaden, deepen and strengthen the commitments made in Copenhagen, and quickly to take forward the actions necessary to deliver the promises on finance that we made in the Accord. The EU should encourage more countries to associate themselves with the Accord, maintaining the momentum towards a legal framework. An exchange of views followed on the target that the EU should submit to the Accord appendix by January 31. The presidency concluded that while support was lacking for an unconditional offer of 30 per cent. the EU would need to find a formulation that underlined the EU's willingness to move to 30 per cent. in the right circumstances.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Draft Animal Health Bill

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Today, I am laying before Parliament a draft Animal Health Bill that sets out major changes I am intending to implement on responsibility for, and management of, animal health in England.

The draft Bill would establish a new body in England, headed by an independent board and chair, with responsibility for animal health policy and its application; matters that currently rest with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The draft Bill draws upon extensive consultation over a number of years on the policy of responsibility and cost sharing for animal health. It is based on a partnership working approach that will be increasingly central to the development of animal health policy and the means by which it is carried out on the ground. This will enable the experience and expertise of those making a living in the livestock and other animal related sectors to contribute to the policies and decisions on animal health.

Central to long term success in combating animal disease, reducing its incidence and cost, and increasing the nation's resilience to its impacts, is bringing about behaviour change among those directly affected. The development of responsibility sharing in the provisions of the draft Bill will help to secure the needed changes in business practices and attitudes.

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The other part of this new approach, as proposed by Iain Anderson in his report on the lessons to be learned from foot and mouth in 2001, is a degree of sharing of the costs involved with those who both benefit directly from animal health measures and whose businesses bear the brunt of animal disease. Accordingly, the Government will bring forward in due course separate measures relating to cost sharing.

Copies of the draft Bill are available in the Vote Office.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Scrutiny Overrides

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The figures given in the House of Lords answer delivered on 5 January 2010, *Official Report* columns WA26-27 were incorrect. The latest report shows there were a total of 15 instruments (and not 14 as incorrectly given previously) which Ministers supported before one or both of our Parliamentary EU committees had completed their scrutiny. Instrument 15 related to Doc 7616/08 on ship source pollution, a Ministry of Justice lead. The table below provides information on how many of these 15 instruments were scrutiny overrides in each House with the Departments shown as leading on these instruments.

Department	*Total no. of instruments overridden*	*Overrides in House of Lords*	*Overrides in House of Commons*
Treasury	6	6	5
DEFRA	5	5	2
BIS	1	1	
DCSF	1	1	1
FCO	1	1	
MOJ	1		1
Total	15	14	9

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity Cards

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am pleased to announce a further extension of the national identity service following a successful implementation of the introduction of voluntary identity cards, from 30 November 2009, in Greater Manchester and at Manchester and London City airports and, from 4 January 2010, to the rest of the north-west of England.

From 8 February 2010 young people aged between 16 and 24 who are resident in Greater London will be able to apply for a voluntary identity card at a fee of £30 at the relevant Identity and Passport Service office.

In addition from 8 February 2010, anyone resident in the United Kingdom aged 16 and over who has registered an interest in identity cards, or registers their interest by 30 June 2010, on the Identity and Passport Service website at: https://info.ips.gov.uk/ipscw/reg may also apply for an identity card at the Identity and Passport Service offices in London and in north-west England.

Initially, these further roll out groups will cover British citizens who hold either a valid United Kingdom passport or one that has expired at any time since 1 January 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Haiti Earthquake

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): An earthquake of magnitude 7.0 struck Haiti, near the capital Port-au-Prince on the evening of 12 January. During the course of last week, smaller but still significant aftershocks continued to affect the area around Port-au-Prince. The situation for an estimated 3 million Haitians remains precarious.

It is clear that this is a human tragedy of enormous proportions. The United Nations estimates that at least 2 million people will require immediate relief assistance for the next six months. So far, the Government of Haiti say that 150,000 people are confirmed dead and the Haitian Interior Minister estimates that the total death toll may reach 200,000.

Following my written statement to the House on 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 11WS, British officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been in contact with over 70 British nationals in Haiti, who have confirmed they are safe and well, and we are co-ordinating with US, Canadian and EU partners to facilitate an assisted departure for any British nationals who wish to leave Haiti. We have received reports that other British nationals are missing but we do not have any further information at this stage.

The British public has responded with generosity to the Disaster Emergency Committee appeal, which has so far raised over £42 million. I pay tribute to the work of the Disaster Emergency Committee, their NGO members and the British public for this remarkable response.

The British Government have moved very quickly with our response. The UK search and rescue teams were in Haiti for over a week, carrying out their life saving work, including pulling three people from the rubble alive, arranging medical evacuations, treating the wounded and helping the United Nations co-ordinate the overall search and rescue effort. After consulting with the United Nations, we concluded that they had done all they could and that the rescue effort was moving on to another phase. The British team returned to the United Kingdom on Saturday 22 January, at the same time as other international search and rescue teams headed home. The United Kingdom should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

We have also committed £1 million for the International Federation of the Red Cross to provide food, shelter, water and other immediate needs for 20,000 families; £2 million for the World Food Programme for transport and logistics; £1 million to assist with aid co-ordination to ensure the right aid reaches those who need it quickly; £300,000 for the World Health Organisation for disease surveillance to help prevent epidemics and a further £2.5 million to NGOs with established operations on the ground— Oxfam, Action Against Hunger and Handicap International—to deliver clean water, shelter, medical care and food for 160,000 earthquake victims.

On 19 January, as the scale of the disaster which had unfolded in Haiti became clearer, the British Government announced a tripling of our humanitarian aid to £20 million. The additional funding will enable our support to extend beyond immediate humanitarian relief. Over the next four or five days, we are sending a further three flights with non-food items such as shelter kits, jerry cans, blankets. The United Kingdom's stabilisation unit is deploying civilian experts and supplies to help restore vital Government functions. A team of three from the unit has already deployed with equipment including vehicles, field offices and communications equipment to support British efforts and strengthen co-ordination with other partners in Haiti.

We have also taken the decision to deploy the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Largs Bay, to carry further vital relief goods. The ship is expected to depart by the end of the month and will help assure continuity of supply of vital goods such as food, shelter and medical supplies. Following a request from the United Nations it is expected to stay on to assist in distributing supplies around Haiti.

We continue to support strengthened co-ordination by the United Nations and Government of Haiti. The United Nations Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs has rapidly increased its staffing to co-ordinate relief on the ground. The humanitarian clusters are accelerating their work and we are exploring options for further help to the shelter clusters. The Prime Minister spoke with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last week and subsequently with President Obama to discuss how both countries could support the United Nations in their role. The Prime Minister welcomed the role played by President Clinton as UN Special Envoy to Haiti and that of Acting Special Representative Edmond Mullet.

The United States military is playing a crucial role in supporting the humanitarian effort, keeping the airport functioning, clearing the port, and enabling aid to get where it needs to. They are working well with the United Nations in support of the international relief effort.

Aid is now getting through to affected communities but the pace of delivery needs to be accelerated. So far, over 500,000 people have received assistance. By 22 January, there were over 120 water distribution points in Port-au-Prince. The Government of Haiti have identified six formalised settlements to house 120,000 people and work has started to build them. Medical provision is also improving, and the United Nations has announced that there are now enough doctors and surgeons in the country. There are at least nine field hospitals operational in Haiti as well as a 1,000-bed hospital ship and six more on the way. The Department for International Development provided funding for an assessment team and specialised surgical team from Merlin that are now working on the ground in Port-au-Prince.

More still needs to be done. A shortage of trucks and fuel, exacerbated by the airport's limited capacity to receive, warehouse, and dispatch relief supplies, continues to hamper relief efforts in and around Port-au-Prince. Over 200,000 people have left Port-au-Prince for other parts of Haiti and as many as 800,000 people are believed to be reliant on temporary shelters. Our early contribution to the World Food Programme for logistical support has helped, and RFA Largs Bay will transport more trucks to help with aid distribution. Ministers are liaising at the highest level with the relevant authorities to unblock bottlenecks.

The situation for many survivors in Haiti remains precarious. In these difficult circumstances, it is notable how civil society in Haiti has come together in the face of personal tragedy. I am meeting with faith leaders today to discuss how to support the work of church networks in Haiti and others in bringing people together. The British Government will support Haitians in this task.

We continue to follow the security situation very closely, both for our teams and for the wider operation, and share the concerns expressed by the United Nations that the relatively stable situation could deteriorate. Following Security Council Resolution 1908 to bolster the Haitian peacekeeping mission with an additional 2,000 troops and 1,500 police, we congratulate countries offering additional personnel and urge the speedy deployment of these peacekeepers in their humanitarian role.

Once the relief phase is over, it is essential that the international community does not forget about Haiti. We welcome the efforts multilaterals are already making to support the recovery and reconstruction. We expect our contribution to be through our very substantial support to multilaterals and we are looking urgently at ways of providing longer-term support for Haiti through the European Commission, the World Bank and other multilaterals. To this end, the European Union Foreign Affairs Council meeting of Development Ministers on Monday 18 January pledged longer-term reconstruction funding as well as significant funding for humanitarian support. And today, member countries from the long established grouping "The Friends of Haiti" will meet in Montreal to start the planning process for a major conference in the spring on post-emergency reconstruction which we fully expect to attend. Leading multilaterals will also attend the Montreal meeting, and the United Kingdom will be represented by the European Union delegation.

Going forward, it is clear that Haiti will need grant assistance and development support for the foreseeable future, and on terms consistent with its future debt sustainability. The United Kingdom has already cancelled all debts owed by Haiti as part of the heavily indebted poor countries initiative in June 2009. We will continue to play our part in responding to the short and long-term needs of the Haitian people.

TRANSPORT

Sale of Trust Ports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): In its guidance note "Modernising Trust Ports, Second Edition", issued in July 2009, the Department strongly encouraged the major trust ports in England and Wales to analyse their corporate structure and keep it under review, with a view to identifying opportunities to enhance their efficiency and get value from their assets, and to report their conclusions to the Department by April 2010.

The Government's operational efficiency programme set out a policy framework to guide decisions on how activities using public assets will be delivered. This recognised that in seeking to deliver services more effectively with limited resources, there may be advantages in some cases to adopting alternative forms of ownership.

In considering the appropriateness of sale of an asset, the Government will consider a range of factors. The following statement sets out the factors that the Government currently consider likely to be particularly relevant to consideration of the appropriateness of sale of a major trust port.

The factors applying to sales in general include:

whether it is possible to ensure continued delivery of high-quality services and other policy goals (such as supporting economic competitiveness and growth) with a different form of ownership;

whether there is or could be a satisfactory degree of competition if the service were provided in the private sector;

the extent to which the sale could be expected to increase investment, potentially through reduced constraints on borrowing, or enhance efficiency or quality; and

the feasibility of sale in terms of market appetite and the value for money likely to be achieved.

Other factors applying equally to the sale of trust ports include:

the desirability of giving all bona fide prospective purchasers a fair and equitable opportunity to make an offer;

the desirability of encouraging disposal of equity to managers and employees of the port; and

whether the sale could be expected to help to deliver reliable and efficient transport networks.

The Department has issued a guidance note concerning the procedure for the voluntary sale of trust ports. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

The Equality Duty

The Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office (Michael Jabez Foster): The Equality Bill, currently before the House of Lords, will introduce a new integrated equality duty which will bring together the existing race, disability and gender equality duties and extend to cover age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and gender reassignment in full. The equality duty will follow the same structure as the current duties and will be underpinned by a number of specific duties, to be set out in secondary legislation, which will help public authorities in the better performance of the duty.

On 11 June 2009, Government published a consultation document entitled "Equality Bill: Making it work–Policy proposals for specific duties" setting out policy proposals for the new specific duties. The consultation finished on 30 September, and today we have published a policy statement in response to the consultation entitled "Equality Bill: Making it work–Policy proposals for specific duties. A Policy Statement" summarising the responses and setting out our further thinking for the specific duties.

We are placing copies of the policy statement in the Libraries of the House. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website: www.equalities.gov.uk.

We will consult further on the draft regulations for specific duties following Royal Assent to the Equality Bill.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 26 January 2010

CABINET OFFICE

Advance from the Contingencies Fund

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell): I hereby give notice of the Cabinet Office's intention to seek an advance from the Contingencies Fund to provide for a deficient net cash requirement.

The Cabinet Office requires an advance in the amount of £99.248 million to meet an urgent cash requirement pending parliamentary approval of the spring supplementary estimate 2009-10.

Of this total, £33 million is required to fund the cash settlement of its prior year creditors and £66.248 million is required to fund resources sought by the Office of the Third Sector in the spring supplementary estimate.

In seeking this advance, it is not the intention of the Cabinet Office to consume resources additional to those sought in the spring supplementary estimate 2009-10.

There are no reasonable grounds to doubt that Parliament is willing to approve the additional net resource and net cash requirements, since the Cabinet Office has received prior agreement from the Treasury.

The Cabinet Office has drawn down from the Treasury's Consolidated Fund the full amount of net cash requirement voted in the winter supplementary estimate 2009-10 and has disbursed almost all of this funding.

This accelerated pattern of disbursement is caused by the Office of the Third Sector making grant payments to its delivery partners in cases where the funding for these commitments has been approved by the Treasury but the net cash requirement detailed in the spring supplementary estimate will not be voted by Parliament until late March.

If the Office of the Third Sector is unable to make payments to these funds, it will be in breach of contract and, in turn, its delivery partners will be in breach of contract with their third sector partners.

The Cabinet Office will repay the advance to the Contingencies Fund as soon as it has access to draw down additional supply sought in the spring supplementary estimate.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £66,248,000 will be sought in a supplementary estimate for the Cabinet Office. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £99,248,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

DEFENCE

Basra Memorial Wall Dedication Ceremony

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): I am pleased to provide further details of events being organised by the Ministry of Defence later this year which will see the dedication of the Basra memorial wall.

On 11 March 2010 there will be a dedication ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire for the new Basra memorial wall, which replicates the original wall that was returned to the UK last year from its original location outside the Multi-National Division (South-East) headquarters at the Basra contingency operating base in Iraq. I have written to all the families of service personnel who died in Iraq to invite them to attend the ceremony.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity Transmission (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): I regret that a date I gave during the Adjournment debate on electricity transmission (North Somerset) on 19 January was incorrect. National Grid's consultation on two possible route corridors for a new overhead power line from Bridgwater to Avonmouth was extended until 22 January because of the bad weather. It was not, as I wrongly suggested, extended until 22 July.

I want to make my apologies to Parliament and to the Opposition spokespeople for the error that occurred during the debate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (18 January)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister responsible for food, farming and environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 18 January.

This was the first Agriculture and Fisheries Council under the Spanish presidency, and probably the last for Mariann Fischer Boel as commissioner. The presidency briefly introduced its work programme, highlighting its three priorities–long-term CAP reform, competitiveness and the profile of women in rural areas.

Following the Commission's presentation of its communication aimed at improving the food supply chain at December Council, the presidency circulated a discussion paper to structure debate. Interventions fell into three broad categories–market transparency; the role of producer organisations; and the country of origin principle.

For market transparency (surveillance of price trends and margins for producers, processors and retailers) member states were divided between those that felt price monitoring should be carried out systematically at EU level, and those who, sceptical of creating additional costs and burdens, favoured national competence (including the UK).

Positions were also divided on the role of producer organisations. France called for changes to single market rules and competition law, and the adoption of model contracts. Germany and the UK, at the other end of the spectrum, insisted on the need to operate within the rules. The UK observed that the Government should support markets, where appropriate, describing its own recent initiative in the grocery supply chain. Ministers were also divided between those calling for compulsory and voluntary regulation of markets (in the event of the Commission taking action).

The presidency concluded that a number of member states had called for changes to the current rules to be adopted, and mandated the Special Committee on Agriculture to further explore the issues, with a view to the adoption of council conclusions.

A number of items were tabled under any other business. Lithuania, on behalf of Estonia, Poland and Latvia, explained that pig exports to Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan had been significantly affected by a hike in import duties in the Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan customs union.

Belgium, supported by Austria, Germany, Lithuania and Portugal, urged the Commission to resolve speedily WTO difficulties with the export of out-of-quota sugar. They argued that this was necessary to deal with the large surplus of sugar produced by the EU, and to allow farmers to make decisions about the next growing period.

Austria informed Council about the forthcoming OECD Agriculture ministerial meeting it would co-chair with Australia. The presidency announced that the subject would be discussed by Ministers over lunch at the February Council. Austria also drew Ministers' attention to a recent seminar on the challenges of farming in mountainous areas calling for a strong CAP as a means of ongoing support.

The state aid requests from Italy and Bulgaria were withdrawn.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Threat Level Update

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): On Friday 22 January, the joint terrorism analysis centre (JTAC) changed the UK threat level from international terrorism from substantial to severe. This means that a terrorist attack is highly likely.

The change in the threat level to severe does not mean that a terrorist attack is imminent. It reinforces the message that the terrorist threat to the United Kingdom is real, serious and can change. Our first duty is always to protect the public and we view the appropriate threat level is a keystone for doing so.

The decision to change the threat level is taken by JTAC independently of Ministers and is based on the very latest intelligence, considering factors such as capability, intent and timescale. Severe means that an attack is highly likely and may occur without warning.

While there may be changes to security and policing arrangements, these will not necessarily be immediately visible to the public.

Hillsborough Independent Panel

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): On 15 December 2009 I announced the establishment of the Hillsborough independent panel under the chairmanship of the Right Rev. James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool. The panel will work in partnership with Government and other public agencies to oversee the maximum possible public disclosure of governmental and other agency documentation relating to the Hillsborough tragedy and its aftermath. It will produce a report on its work, outlining the extent to which the information disclosed adds to the public understanding of the disaster, and will make recommendations as to a permanent Hillsborough archive. The panel will also consult with the families to ensure that their views are taken into account.

I can announce today the appointment of seven further members of the panel and that the panel will hold its first meeting in Liverpool in early February. This will begin the process of consideration of documents for release, initially to the Hillsborough families, together with the other purposes of the panel. The further panel members are:

Christine Gifford, member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council On National Records And Archives.

[redacted], television producer.

[redacted] QPM CBE, former Deputy Chief Constable of the [redacted] Service of Northern Ireland

Dr. Bill Kirkup CBE, formerly Associate Medical Director, Department of Health.

Phil Scraton, Professor Of Criminology at Queen's University, Belfast.

Peter Sissons, broadcaster.

Sarah Tyacke CB, former chief executive of the National Archives and Keeper of Public Records.

I am making these appointments in view of the range of skills needed and the hundreds of thousands of documents within the panel's scope. With the scale of the task in mind, there may be a need for further panel members. In particular, I expect to announce in due course the appointment to the panel of a suitably experienced lawyer.

The panel members whose appointments I am announcing today are experts in their respective fields and I am grateful to each of them for agreeing to take on this important task. In addition to this statement I am also placing in the Libraries of the House a document setting out the expertise each member will bring to the panel's work and their respective letters of appointment. All panel appointments are for a period of two years.

Under the Bishop of Liverpool's leadership the panel will be independent and rigorous in its work, but will also act with sensitivity and understanding. That over 30,000 people attended the service marking the 20th anniversary of Hillsborough in April shows how deep the wound in Liverpool remains. I believe that the independent panel has an historic opportunity to bring healing to those affected by the tragedy, and that its establishment can help to begin to bring an end to the grievances strongly felt by many.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Employment Savings Trust Corporation

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): Today is another important milestone for the delivery of workplace pension reform. Mr. Lawrence Churchill has been appointed as chair of the NEST Corporation, the body that will launch and run the national employment savings trust (NEST), previously known as personal accounts.

Mr. Lawrence Churchill brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience of pensions to this challenging role and has a long career of operating at the highest level in large and complex organisations, frequently from start up. His appointment as chair demonstrates our commitment to recruiting people with a proven track record and the expertise to get the job done.

NEST will ensure all employers have access to a suitable pension arrangement through which to fulfil forthcoming new duties under the Pensions Act 2008. As part of the new pensions landscape, NEST will help extend the benefits of occupational pension saving with a guaranteed employer contribution to millions of workers, many for the first time. NEST will have low charges to ensure more of workers' savings go towards building their pension pot.

Mr. Lawrence Churchill will take up his appointment as chair-designate from 1 February, and will be preparing for his new role and participating in the recruitment of the other trustee members of the NEST Corporation. He will take on full duties as chair when the NEST Corporation is established on 5 July 2010. Mr. Lawrence Churchill is currently chair of the Pension Protection Fund, and will retain this role until that appointment ends on 30 June this year.

Press notice published today:

Available at http://dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press%2D releases/

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 27 January 2010

TREASURY

Oil Field Allowance

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Government recognise the importance of the UK oil and gas industry to our economy and the dependable foundation it provides for the UK's energy security.

While we are trying to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels we must and do recognise that this will be a long transition and our oil and gas reserves will continue to play a vital role in supplying our energy needs for many years to come.

We must ensure that the UK taxpayer receives a fair return from the extraction of our national resources. We are, however, committed to maximising the economic production of the UK's reserves, for the fuel this delivers, for the contribution this makes to our economy, and for the jobs and skills the industry supports and develops.

For these reasons, today I am announcing secondary legislation that is to be laid before the House of Commons in due course and, subject to approval by the House, will support the development of remote gas fields in the west of Shetland region. The area to the west of the Shetland islands is the last major area in the UK continental shelf to be developed and infrastructure is critical to fully unlocking the gas potential of the region. It is estimated that the area contains around 20 per cent. of the UK's remaining oil and gas reserves.

The legislation, if approved by the House, will extend the field allowance, announced in Budget 2009, to remote deep water gas fields, which are found in the west of Shetland area. The field allowance works by exempting an amount of income from the supplementary charge. All profits generated by qualifying fields are still subject to ring-fence corporation tax.

The legislation is to be introduced by Order and it is our intention that it will be effective from the day after the day on which it is made. Full details of this measure, including the proposed legislation, will be issued on HMRC's website in due course when the legislation is laid before the House of Commons.

Tax Information Exchange

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Tax Information Exchange Agreements were signed with Antigua and Barbuda, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in London on 18 January 2010.

The text of each TIEA has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website. The texts will be scheduled to draft Orders in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Terrorist Asset Freezing

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The Supreme Court has today delivered its judgment in the case of HM Treasury *v.* Ahmed and Others. The case concerns the UK's implementation of United Nations obligations to freeze the assets of terrorists and those associated with al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1267 in 1999 established a UN asset-freezing regime against Osama bin Laden and persons associated with al-Qaeda and the Taliban. UNSCR 1373 in 2001, adopted shortly after 9/11, requires states to take a range of measures to deal with terrorism, including freezing the assets of those involved in terrorism.

The UK has implemented these obligations through Orders in Council made under section 1 of the United Nations Act 1946. Section 1 of the UN Act authorises the Government to make an Order in Council to give effect to any decision of the UN Security Council where such provision appears to be

> "necessary or expedient for enabling those measures to be effectively applied".

The Supreme Court has decided that the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 and the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 are beyond the scope of the power provided by section 1 of the UN Act 1946 and it has quashed both orders. The Court will consider tomorrow whether to stay the judgment for a period.

The Government made the Orders in Council in good faith based on their belief that section 1 of the United Nations Act was an appropriate legal vehicle and that it provided the most effective and timely way of implementing UN terrorist asset freezing obligations.

The Government are committed to maintaining an effective, proportionate and fair terrorist asset-freezing regime that meets our United Nations obligations, protects national security by disrupting flows of terrorist finance, and safeguards human rights.

In the light of the court's decision and the ongoing significant threat from international terrorism, the Government intend to bring forward fast-track primary legislation to restore the UK's terrorist asset-freezing regime. The Government also intend to bring forward affirmative procedure regulations under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to ensure that enforcement provisions are in place to implement fully EC Regulation 881/2002 in respect of measures against al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): Today I am announcing measures to give local authorities powers to manage better the quality and supply of private rented accommodation in their areas and to promote better balanced communities in local neighbourhoods. The private rented sector has an important, and growing, role in the housing market. This Government want to support the private sector. But, as well as a bigger sector, we want a better sector with standards that meet the needs of those who depend on private rented accommodation.

Local authorities need to be able to plan for the right housing mix and deal effectively with problems as they arise. Such problems can include antisocial behaviour, poorly maintained and dangerous properties, and pressures on community services.

The Government recognise the important contribution houses in multiple occupation make to the private rented sector. They provide housing to meet the needs of specific groups and households and make a contribution to the overall provision of affordable housing stock. However, localised problems caused by high concentrations of HMOs have been highlighted as concerns in some towns and cities across the country.

Following research to look at the issues we set out a number of options to deal with this problem in a public consultation paper, "Houses in multiple occupation and possible planning responses".

In the light of the responses to this consultation I have decided to amend the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, as amended, to provide for a specific definition of an HMO. Planning permission will then be required, where a material change of use occurs, to change the use of a property from C3 dwelling house to an HMO.

At the same time as amending the Use Classes Order, I will amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, as amended, to provide that a change from an HMO back to the C3 class dwelling house will not require planning permission.

The consultation responses and research work have indicated that good practice alone cannot solve the problems encountered in a number of communities. This measure is strongly supported by responses to the consultation and it will enable local planning authorities to identify new HMOs with more certainty and act in particular neighbourhoods where there is concern about the mix and balance of communities and concerns about standards of conversion and maintenance of properties, to improve community balance.

I intend to introduce the necessary secondary legislation in time for it to come into force on 6 April 2010.

A summary of responses to the consultation, which includes a statement of the Government's intention, is being published today.

I can also announce the publication today of a short consultation on potential changes to the consent regime for discretionary licensing schemes under the Housing Act 2004. The licensing provisions under the Housing Act 2004 represent another local power available to local authorities in tackling problems associated with HMOs and other privately rented accommodation. I propose the introduction of a general consent, enabling local authorities to introduce discretionary licensing schemes without seeking approval from my Department. I believe it is right that these local decisions should be made by those who know their area best and who are directly accountable to local communities. The consultation will close on Friday 12 March, and any future general consent will come into effect from the common commencement date of 6 April 2010.

I am publishing today also the second part of research undertaken by the Building Research Establishment for the Department in 2008 into the implementation of HMO licensing following the 2004 Housing Act. This shows emerging evidence of improvements to the condition and management of properties as a direct result of HMO licensing, although it also indicates that local authorities have still to complete the task of licensing all HMOs subject to mandatory licensing. I am therefore reviewing the support available to local authorities in relation to regulation of the private rented sector, including publishing draft guidance on licensing provisions, and will put in place any changes before the commencement of the new powers I am announcing today. This work is part of our programme of reform and support for the private rented sector. We consulted last summer on a comprehensive package of proposals aimed at improving quality and professionalism in the sector and ensuring the best possible deal for tenants.

The proposed national register for landlords is a key element of the measures that we plan. By allowing local authorities to pinpoint private rented housing, the national register will give important support to local authorities seeking to use existing powers, including licensing, in a strategic and proportionate way.

The national register will also provide a mechanism by which landlords and tenants can be kept properly informed of their rights and responsibilities and by which tenants will, for the first time, be able perform basic checks on potential landlords. More broadly, I want to ensure that all tenants have easy access to clear advice, and know where to turn when things go wrong.

I will be making a more detailed announcement on these and other proposals for the private rented sector shortly, including a summary of responses to our summer 2009 consultation following the Rugg review.

I am placing copies of the consultation document for discretionary licensing schemes, the HMO summary of consultation responses, the BRE report and the draft guidance in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

National Victims' Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On behalf of the Home Secretary, the Attorney-General and myself, I am announcing today details of the new national victims' service as the next stage of reforms aimed at ensuring the justice system is firmly on the side of the law-abiding citizen. Its aim will be to provide clear, universal entitlements to all victims of crime and to the most vulnerable.

The £8 million national victims' service guarantees victims of crime and antisocial behaviour, referred from the police, more comprehensive and dedicated support. The service will be rolled out in two phases, beginning in March, helping families bereaved by murder or manslaughter and providing intensive support, care and attention, tailored to their individual needs, beyond the conclusion of any investigation or trial. Each person will be given a named, dedicated support worker who will meet with them regularly to identify their needs and liaise with the authorities on their behalf. The individual may need immediate practical assistance–for example with security, or childcare, or making bill payments–and will be helped through all of this.

Emotional support and expert assistance will also be offered where needed–counselling, for instance, or legal and financial advice. This support will not stop when the criminal justice process comes to a conclusion.

From 1 April we will begin to roll out the national victims' service for all victims of crime across England and Wales.

The most vulnerable victims will be entitled to:

fast contact to establish their support needs, seven days a week;

a one-to-one caseworker responsible for pulling together public sector agencies and third sector providers to respond to their needs, across housing, health, employment, social services and other areas;

quick referral to, and/or the commissioning of, specialist support from other agencies and third sector organisations when needed;

In addition, all victims of crime who are in need of specific assistance, no matter where they live or what offence has been committed against them, will receive a better service targeted to their needs. They will be entitled to:

immediate emotional support from a trained support worker;

an in-depth health check of their practical, emotional, health, security and housing needs;

an individually tailored support plan;

support, not just nine to five, but seven days a week;

tailored information about what is likely to happen in their case, and practical advice.

From July this year, all victims of crime who need it will also be entitled to a caseworker who will guide them through the criminal justice process and give them help and assistance as long as they need it.

This provision will be complementary to the work which the police and Crown Prosecution Service do already in support of victims and bereaved victims. Following the implementation of the 1999 Lawrence inquiry report, a comprehensive national system of police family liaison officers has been in place in homicide cases, which has proved very effective and helpful.

Prosecutors also now can speak to victims and witnesses directly, something unheard of and indeed once prohibited. The CPS has consolidated this by providing targeted support to the community through the introduction of community prosecutors.

The new national victims' service is a key part of the Government's wider strategy to protect core public services which the public depend on, while at the same time making them more personalised to meet individuals' needs. Today's announcement also builds on the wide range of measures the Government have introduced over the past 13 years for victims of crime, including a victims' champion, victim personal statements, a victims' advisory panel and the trebling of funding for victims' services in the voluntary sector.

The establishment of the national victims' service is another key milestone in rebalancing the criminal justice service. It will make sure that victims across England and Wales are given consistent personal support throughout the criminal justice process and beyond. If victims need help, we will continue to be there for them, for as long as they need it.

Copies of "The National Victims Service: An initial response to the Victims' Champion's report" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies of the document will also be available on the criminal justice system website at: www.cjsonline.gov.uk.

Working Group on Libel

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In response to concerns about the possibility that our libel laws are having a chilling effect on freedom of expression, the Government have set up a working group to examine issues relating to the substantive law on libel.

The terms of reference of this group are—

> "to consider whether the law of libel, including the law relating to libel tourism, in England and Wales needs reform, and if so to make recommendations as to solutions".

A list of members of the working group is attached.

The scope of the group's considerations will extend to all aspects of substantive libel law in England and Wales, but will exclude issues relating to costs in defamation proceedings, where work is already under way. The working group is intended to have an intensive, short-term focus and has been requested to make recommendations by mid-March.

Working Group on Libel List of Members

David Banks (Media Law Consultant)
Sir Leszek Borysiewicz (Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council)
Tracey Brown (Managing Director, Sense About Science)
Desmond Browne QC (Barrister, 5 Raymond Buildings)
Rod Christie-Miller (Partner and Chief Executive at Schillings, Solicitors)
Robin Esser (Executive Managing Editor, Daily Mail)
Jo Glanville (Editor, Index on Censorship)
Jonathan Heawood (Director, English PEN)
Tony Jaffa (Head of the Media Team at Foot Anstey, Solicitors)
Sarah Jones (Head of Litigation and Intellectual Property, BBC)
Marcus Partington (Chair of Media Lawyers Association, and Legal Director, Mirror Group Newspapers)
Gillian Phillips (Director of Editorial Legal Services, The Guardian)
Gavin Phillipson (Professor at Durham Law School)
Mark Stephens (Partner at Stephens Finer Innocent, Solicitors)
Andrew Stephenson (Partner at Carter Ruck, Solicitors)
Paul Tweed (Senior Partner at Johnsons, Solicitors)
John Witherow (Editor, Sunday Times)

The working group will be chaired by Rowena Collins-Rice, Director-General, Democracy, Constitution and Law and Chief Legal Officer at the Ministry of Justice.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality Bill

The Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office (Michael Jabez Foster): The Equality Bill, currently before the House of Lords, will outlaw unjustifiable age discrimination against adults aged 18 or over in the provision of services and the exercise of public functions. It also includes powers to make exceptions from the ban, so that we can make clear the beneficial and justifiable age-based practices which will be allowed to continue.

On 29 June 2009, we issued the consultation document "Equality Bill: Making it work—Ending age discrimination in services and public functions" inviting views on our developing policy for exceptions from the age discrimination ban and when the ban should be implemented. The consultation ended on 30 September 2009. Today we have issued "Equality Bill: Making it work—Ending age discrimination in services and public functions. A Policy Statement". This document summarises the consultation responses and sets out our plans for specific exceptions from the ban.

We want the legislation to have the same effects in health and social care as in other sectors, that is:

to eradicate harmful discrimination; and

to permit service providers to treat people of different ages differently where this is beneficial or justifiable or for good public policy reasons;

and to ensure that:

when services deal with individuals, they focus on the individual, taking account of his or her age where it is appropriate to do so, and where this helps to offer a personalised service.

In doing this, we will act in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the recent review "Achieving age equality in health and social care".

We will create a specific exception to allow financial service providers to treat people of different ages differently, but only where this is proportionate to risks and costs. Prices can still be varied by age, where this genuinely reflects risk or costs and is not an arbitrary decision.

We will improve transparency by requiring financial service providers to publish aggregate data in respect of certain products that anyone can check.

We will improve access by requiring the providers of certain insurance products to operate a signposting and referrals system. Where this requirement applies and an insurer does not provide the service to a person because of their age, they will be required to refer the person to a supplier who can meet their needs or refer them to a dedicated signposting service.

Alongside the provisions relating to healthcare and financial services, we will enable any service provider in the public or private sector to use age as a criterion to determine the eligibility for concessions or benefits, where the purpose of the concession is to benefit the age group to which it applies.

We will provide an exception from the ban on age-discrimination to allow specialist group holidays to continue to be provided for people in particular age groups, provided that the age range for the holiday is clearly stated in the promotional material.

If holiday accommodation providers still use age limits then they will need to be able to objectively justify them.

We will explore the issues further before deciding the way forward on vehicle hire where we had not proposed an exception for age limits given firms ability to vary premiums in line with costs relating to insurance premiums.

These exceptions will be set out in an Order made under the power in clause 195 of the Bill. We intend to consult on the draft order in autumn 2010, giving people a further opportunity to comment before the exceptions are debated by both Houses of Parliament.

We are placing copies of the document in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk.

National Equality Panel

The Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harriet Harman): Today the Government have published their official response to the National Equality Panel's report, "An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK". The National Equality Panel's report, which has also been published today, and the full Government response document can be found online at: www.equalities.gov.uk, and I have placed copies in the House of Commons Library. Printed copies of the NEP report and the Government's response are available upon request from the Government Equalities Office.

To build a modern, prosperous society, we have to tackle the barriers that unfairly hold people back and give everyone the opportunity to succeed. Equality matters in the modern world:

for individuals, who are entitled to fairness and to have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and achieve their aspirations and not be held back;

for the economy, because the economy that will succeed in the future is one that draws on the talents of all; and,

for society, because an equal society is more cohesive and at ease with itself.

That is why I commissioned the National Equality Panel in 2008, chaired by Professor John Hills, to undertake an in-depth analysis of economic inequality in the UK today. The panel has examined how a range of factors—including gender, race, disability, social background and where people live—are associated with and influence how people fare at school and at work, their earnings, income and wealth.

The panel's report sets out the scale of the challenges that will need to be addressed if we are to effectively tackle inequality in the UK. The National Equality Panel's report confirms our strongly held view that public policy intervention can and does make a difference to economic inequalities.

We welcome the panel's groundbreaking report. We have made progress over the last 13 years. Some of the widest gaps in outcomes between social groups have been reduced, and trends reversed in the last decade. For example the attainment gap between black and white pupils fell from 18 per cent. in 1997 to 6 per cent. in 2008. The pay gap between men and women has also narrowed. But we are also determined to build on this and achieve more to create a fairer and more prosperous society. It is unacceptable that social background and other factors make so big a difference to the ability of people to fulfil their aspirations and potential.

The Government will continue to make the choices that prioritise fairness and aspiration.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 28 January 2010

TREASURY

2009 UK Convergence Programme

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The "UK Convergence Programme" has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

ECOFIN (19 January 2010)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 19 January 2010. The following items were discussed:

Legislative deliberations

RECOVERY DIRECTIVE

Ministers discussed and agreed a general approach on the recovery directive, aimed at strengthening mutual assistance between member states in the recovery of taxes. The Government support the directive, which provides an overhaul of existing provisions aimed at clamping down on tax evasion. The directive will be adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting, following consultation with the European Parliament.

Non-legislative activities

PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENCY WORK PROGRAMME

The Spanish presidency presented its ECOFIN work programme for the first half of 2010.

STATISTICS: EUROSTAT REPORT

ECOFIN agreed a set of conclusions on a report by the Commission's statistics agency into the quality of official statistics in Greece. The Government support the conclusions, which urge Greece to ensure that outstanding issues are dealt with as a matter of priority and calls on the Commission to propose measures to bring the Greek statistical system in line with EU standards. ECOFIN will continue to monitor progress and return to the issue in February.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Parliamentary Answer (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Joan Ruddock): The answer provided by the Department to PQ 311361 answered on 18 January was incorrect. It referred the hon. Member to an answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 737W, which stated that Ministers had not received any media training since the creation of the Department in October 2008.

Between answering the two questions, my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change received media training on Monday 11 January 2010.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs (Post-Council Statement)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach and I attended the Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council in Spain on 21 and 22 January.

Discussions on the interior day centred on three themes: an EU internal security strategy, counter-terrorism following the attempted bombing on Christmas day over Detroit, and legal migration following the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty.

During the first session all member states supported the presidency's proposal for an internal security strategy, which the presidency said was intended to carry a simple message on shared threats and shared response. I welcomed the draft strategy but additionally called for an organised crime strategy which would identify priority issues and enhance co-operation at EU level. The Commission undertook to present a political communication which we will share with Parliament when received. The presidency concluded that the internal security strategy would be submitted to COREPER.

In the second session on counter-terrorism the presidency welcomed the US Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano to the informal Council. She gave a brief summary of the Detroit incident, stressed the importance of information exchange and in particular passenger name record data for collective security, and called for the work of the EU-US high level group on data protection to be formalised into a binding agreement. I said that the Detroit incident should serve as a wake-up call. Al-Qaeda's capacity to carry out unimaginable acts was now known and we had a responsibility to close identified security gaps speedily. I identified a number of areas for EU action, including: the need to collect advanced passenger information on intra-EU flights; expedite an EU PNR agreement where we needed a clear legal framework that included intra-EU flights; proposals on allowing scanners as primary screening tools; targeted capacity-building to countries where there was an al-Qaeda threat and we should not forget the work currently being done to reduce radicalisation and recruitment. Other delegations also called for an EU PNR instrument, stressed the importance of work with third countries, and highlighted the need for research and analysis of information.

The presidency opened the final session on legal migration noting the opportunities offered by the Lisbon treaty in this area and their proposals for work on unaccompanied minors. The Commission said that new directives on intra-company transferees and seasonal workers would also be proposed, along with a Green Paper and change to family reunification rules. Other delegations said there was a need to take action to account for demographics, labour market needs and impact on social security systems. Some argued that it was not possible to separate illegal immigration from legal migration and integration and therefore stressed the importance of action on border management and the establishment of the EU entry/exit system in 2010. The presidency concluded by looking forward to the Stockholm action plan and the fourth Ministerial meeting on integration which was planned for 15-16 April.

Discussions on the justice day centred around three themes: looking at a common policy for justice after the Lisbon treaty, a Europe for the family, and property rights and thinking on victims.

Opening the first session, the presidency invited discussion on a range of issues concerning co-operation in the justice area after the Lisbon treaty. All delegations highlighted the importance of effective working with the European Parliament, given its enhanced role in relation to legislation in criminal justice matters. Many delegations highlighted the importance of proper evaluation of existing and new legislation, and saw no reason to assume this should be an obstacle to progress (the UK saw synergies between evaluation and progress). There was a discussion about member state initiatives under the former third pillar. The Commission argued that these should be prepared with as much care as their own proposals. Other delegations spoke up in favour of appropriate consultation and preparation of impact assessments. As to third-country agreements, many delegations highlighted the need for careful co-ordination and information, notably in areas where external competence was shared.

During a discussion on the use of enhanced co-operation, most member states, including the UK, urged caution and emphasised that such measures should be used only as a last resort. Provided that proper procedures were followed, most accepted that at the moment, the most likely area for enhanced co-operation was choice of law in divorce.

During the session on a Europe for the family and property rights, the presidency invited discussion on three areas: succession and wills, matrimonial property regimes and Brussels I. On succession and wills they asked whether work in this area should focus on cross-border matters without affecting member states substantive law. Nearly all those member states who spoke agreed that the proposal should not affect substantive law, many of those arguing that there was no competence to deal with substantive succession law. The UK expressed regret that it had been unable to opt in to this proposal, agreed that substantive law should not be affected and said that national procedural law should also be respected.

The presidency then asked whether there was an urgent need for an instrument that clarified the law applicable to matrimonial property regimes. Five member states agreed an instrument was needed soon but others were more cautious. Some thought there was no urgent need; others thought it would be best first to see how the negotiations on succession and wills progressed. The UK thought the emphasis should be less on the urgency of the proposal but instead on a thorough analysis of the evidence base.

With regard to Brussels I, the presidency asked whether it was necessary to present a proposal as soon as possible on the revision of Brussels I that, with adequate guarantees, abolished exequatur. All who intervened and saw the revision of Brussels I as a priority, including the UK, agreed that the abolition of exequatur needed to proceed with sufficient protection, especially to debtors.

There was a discussion over lunch focusing on what more the EU could do to support victims. Lord Bach noted that we had significant recent experience in the field and were content to exchange best practice. The Spanish presidency said that they wanted to make progress on the draft proposal on a European protection order.

JUSTICE

Contingencies Fund: Northern Ireland Court Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Northern Ireland Court Service winter supplementary estimate for 2009-10 includes £84.5 million cash (£85.0 million resource) in respect of legal aid, intended to enable the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (NILSC) to discharge legal costs and meet its administration costs during 2009-10. Expenditure on legal aid in 2009-10 is forecast to exceed existing provision significantly because the NILSC is not only dealing with a high volume of very high-cost criminal cases but also a higher level of civil and criminal business.

Accordingly, parliamentary approval for additional resources of £17 million will be sought in a spring supplementary estimate for the Northern Ireland Court Service. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £17 million is being met by a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund. The additional resources will enable the NILSC to discharge its statutory obligation to meet bills within the provision available to it.

Arrangements have been put in place to ensure that very high-cost cases are assessed and paid in a timely manner. There is a programme of reform aimed at reducing the cost of criminal legal aid and delivering reform to civil legal aid which will control cost and target funding on priority cases.

PRIME MINISTER

Northern Ireland Devolution

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Taoiseach and I met the political parties—both individually and together—and joined the plenary sessions of their negotiations at Hillsborough this week. I want to pay tribute to Brian Cowen for his patience and hard work.

We worked to establish common ground, to build dialogue between the parties and to re-establish the trust necessary to complete the devolution of policing and justice in Northern Ireland. This follows the agreement of an £800 million financial package in October 2009 that would be available for use upon successful completion of devolution.

As a result of these intensive discussions we believe that there is a clear pathway to an agreement that would achieve a settlement of all the outstanding issues.

First, we believe it is now possible for the parties to set an early date for the completion of the final stage of devolution. And we believe it is feasible for a cross-community vote in early March with the transfer of policing and justice powers around the beginning of May.

Secondly, we believe the parties have a sound basis for how the devolution of policing and justice will work in practice: in particular, that a solution is available for the creation of a new Justice Department and for the definition of the relationship between the Justice Minister and the Executive.

Thirdly, on the issue of parades there is a reasonable basis for agreement, including dealing more effectively with contentious parades, learning lessons from successful local models, and for enhancing the framework governing parades and related public assemblies in a way that guarantees respect, dialogue, transparency and independence.

In addition we have also put forward proposals for the Executive to move ahead on other outstanding St. Andrew's issues.

It is right that the parties themselves now focus on working together, in a spirit of trust and mutual understanding, to agree and take ownership of the solutions.

The Taoiseach and I look forward to receiving an update on progress from the First and Deputy First Ministers on 29 January. If it proves impossible for the parties to resolve the outstanding issues, we are prepared to publish our specific proposals for wider debate and discussion. We have listened to the views of Northern Ireland's political leaders—we have asked them to reach agreement on outstanding issues and move quickly to the cross-community vote in the Assembly necessary to achieve the completion of devolution.

TRANSPORT

Dartford - Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): The "Dartford—Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme Account for 2008-09" is published today under section 3 (1) (d) of the Trunk Road Charging Schemes (Bridges and Tunnels) (Keeping of Accounts) (England) Regulations 2003. A copy of the accounts will be placed in the House Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Schemes and Equality

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): In the Barber judgment of May 1990 the European Court of Justice ruled that, as occupational pensions are a form of deferred pay, scheme rules must treat men and women equally. The UK Government incorporated this obligation into domestic law in the Pensions Act 1995. A similar obligation was placed on the Pension Protection Fund in the Pensions Act 2004 in relation to PPF compensation. In line with the understanding of the ECJ judgment at the time, these provisions apply only where there is a comparator—that is, where more favourable treatment has been afforded to an individual of the opposite sex engaged in comparable work.

As part of the work relating to the draft Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations recently laid before the House, the Government have been preparing guidance for trustees who are preparing to transfer their scheme assets to Government. As part of that work, the Government have considered whether further practical guidance on equalisation for these transferring schemes is desirable, to ensure that payments of assistance do not discriminate between men and women.

The examination of the relevant legislation and case law has led the Government to conclude that where a scheme member has accrued entitlement to a guaranteed minimum pension after May 1990, European law requires that any inequality in scheme rules which results from the legislative provisions governing GMPs should be removed, whether or not a person can show that a comparator exists.

The Government intend to bring forward amending legislation when Parliamentary time allows. However, in the meantime, it is the Government's opinion that, in order to ensure full compliance with European law, trustees and others should act as if existing domestic legislation requires equalisation in respect of differences resulting from GMPs whether or not real comparators exist.

Workers Memorial Day

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am pleased to announce the publication of the Government's response to the consultation exercise proposing the official recognition of Workers Memorial Day.

The Government's response (Cm 7789) has been laid before Parliament and will be published later today.

The consultation exercise attracted a large number of responses, the overwhelming majority of which were strongly supportive of the proposal. I am therefore delighted to announce that the UK will officially recognise Workers Memorial Day, and that this recognition will take formal effect this year on 28 April, the international day of action for safety and health at work. The day is already widely commemorated in the UK and official recognition will reinforce its significance and raise awareness of the workers who are killed, disabled, injured or made unwell each year by their work.

Commemorations will continue to be led by individuals, employers, trade unions and community organisations. In keeping with the outcome of the consultation, the Government will encourage commemorations to be held on the day itself throughout the UK. The Government and Ministers will help support and promote these commemorations.

Official recognition is a tribute to all those who have campaigned long and hard for such recognition, including bereaved families, trade unions, campaign groups, and many other organisations and individuals. It is also recognition of the importance of work to improve health and safety among the working population.

Copies of the response are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. It is also available on the DWP website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/policy-publications/fatal-accidents-inquiry.shtml.

Written Ministerial Statement

Friday 29 January 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Union in 2010

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): Today I will lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper on prospects for the European Union in 2010. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. Additional copies can be obtained from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website www.fco.gov.uk.

This Command Paper provides an overview of the priorities of the Spanish presidency for the first half of 2010 as set out in their political programme, which is available at www.eu2010.es. The main priorities of the Spanish presidency are full and effective implementation of the provisions of the Lisbon treaty, including establishment of the European external action service; recovery from economic crisis; reinforcing the global influence of the EU; and developing further the rights and freedoms of EU citizens.

The primary focus of the Spanish presidency's work on securing economic recovery will be to ensure quality job creation for EU citizens. In order to achieve that goal, the presidency will seek agreement on a successor to the EU's 2000-10 Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth. The UK fully supports this initiative and will work to ensure an ambitious reform programme consistent with the Prime Minister's proposal in October 2009 for a new EU compact for jobs and growth.

At the heart of any sustainable recovery must be measures to assist transition to a low-carbon economy. It is essential that the political agreement on emissions reductions and climate financing reached at the Copenhagen climate conference in December 2009 is now transformed effectively into a binding legal treaty. The Spanish presidency must be at the heart of EU work on this; the UK will support the presidency in ensuring agreements are turned into action.

The Spanish presidency will assist the new High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in bolstering further the EU's presence in the global arena. It will hold multilateral summits with Latin America and the Caribbean and the Union of the Mediterranean, and bilateral summits with the United States, Russia, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Japan, Morocco, Mexico and Pakistan. Other priorities include seeking to develop the eastern partnership; ensuring greater energy security; and preparing for the United Nations millennium development goals summit in September.

The Spanish presidency will seek to promote the rights, freedoms and security of EU citizens. The Stockholm programme for EU justice and home affairs co-operation was agreed during the Swedish presidency; the Spanish will take forward work on agreeing an action plan for its implementation. It will seek agreement on an EU internal security strategy, take forward work on gender equality, and assess the European pact on immigration and asylum.

Petition

Monday 18 January 2010

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Post Office (New England)

The Petition of residents of Millfield and New England and others,

Declares that New England Post Office ought to be re-opened

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that New England Post Office can be re-opened.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stewart Jackson, Official Report,* 9 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 468 .]

[P000529]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

The Government recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why we are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this.

Under the Government's postal sector reforms introduced in 2001, Royal Mail (which includes Post Office Ltd) has been given greater commercial freedom, as the management and unions themselves requested, and Government have assumed an arm's length role as a shareholder in a public limited company. Subject to agreeing its strategic plan with us, the board can structure the business as it decides best to meet the challenges of market development and changing customer needs.

The Government have introduced clearly defined national access criteria to maintain a national network and guarantee a reasonable level of access to post office services for all. Within the access criteria framework, however, the precise location of post office branches is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd and not for Government.

In 2007 the Government announced that up to 2,500 Post Offices out of around 14,000 would have to close to help stem losses of £4 million per week and to ensure the viability of the remaining network.

The New England post office was closed as part of Post Office Ltd's Network Change Programme following a six-week local consultation period. Post Office Ltd took the decision to close the branch according to the criteria set out under the Network Change Programme. Post Office Ltd took into account feedback from the consultation, in particular the accessibility of nearby post offices for elderly people, the effect of the closure on local shops and the adequacy of local bus services.

As there are two other post office branches within one mile of the New England branch and a regular bus service with disabled access, Post Office Ltd took the decision to close the branch. Additional services have been added to the two nearest alternative branches.

Post Office Ltd had to make hard choices in deciding which post offices should be closed but adhered to the Government's access criteria to ensure continuing reasonable access to services for customers.

Petition

Tuesday 19 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (South West Devon)

The Petition of persons resident in the South West Devon parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Gary Streeter.]*

[P000713]

Petitions

Wednesday 20 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Northampton North)

The Petition of persons resident in the Northampton North parliamentary constituency and others,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Sally Keeble .]*

[P000716]

Badman Report (Southampton Test)

The Petition of Person resident in the Southampton Test Parliamentary Constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000717]

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Health Care Centre (Burnage)

The Petition of persons concerned at plans to suspend walk-in services at Burnage Healthcare Centre in Burnage, Manchester

Declares that NHS Manchester is currently considering plans to suspend walk-in services at Burnage Healthcare Centre in Burnage, Manchester; notes that this is a service that is much valued and well used by the local community: declares that the Petitioners are concerned that a decision to suspend walk-in services was made without public consultation

Further declares that the petitioners are concerned by the impact that the suspension of services would have on the local community, particularly the elderly: that the Petitoners believe that a decision to proceed with the suspension would be misguided; and that the Petitioners believe that such a decision would be purely for financial reasons rather than being based on healthcare imperatives

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to do all in its power to persuade NHS Manchester to abandon plans to suspend walk-in services at Burnage Healthecare Centre and allow staff at the centre to continue their valuable work free from the threat of suspension

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 15 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 935 .]

[P000649]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

It is the responsibility of the local NHS to plan, develop and improve health services according to the healthcare needs of the local population. This includes the provision of primary care walk-in services.

It is the view of the Manchester Primary Care Trust that a consultation process is not required in this case due to the minimal impact of this service change and the accessibility and robustness of alternative services to better manage patients' needs.

The walk-in centre in Burnage was closed with effect from 11 January 2010. No other services currently provided at the Burnage health Centre are affected by the closure.

Petitions

Thursday 21 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Totnes)

The Petition of persons resident in the Totnes parliamentary constituency and others,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Anthony Steen .]*

[P000689]

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Dr Ghassemlou

The Petition of member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in the UK and others,

Declares that 20 years after their deaths the case of Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou, the General-Secretary of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, Abdullah Ghaderi-Azar and Fadhil Rassoul has never been resolved, notes that they travelled to Vienna, on 13 July 1989 to negotiate a peaceful solution and obtain political rights for the Kurdish nation, with the appointed Iranian representatives, but that all three were killed during the meeting

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to encourage the EU to press the Government of Austria to allow an independent judicial enquiry into these deaths and to secure a just and true resolution to this case.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report, 15 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 836 .]*

[P000648]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

We share the Petitioner's concern over the deaths of Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou, Abdullah Ghaderi-Azar and Fadhil Rassoul in Vienna in 1989. We understand that, following an investigation by the Austrian authorities, arrest warrants were issued for three suspects in July 1989. Unfortunately no arrests have been made, but the case remains open and the warrants are still valid.

We hope that those responsible will be brought to justice and that the families and friends of the victims will be able to gain a resolution to this long standing issue.

Petition

Monday 25 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Northampton South)

The Petition of persons resident in the Northampton South parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000722]

Petitions

Wednesday 27 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Sheffield Hallam)

The Petition of persons resident in the Sheffield, Hallam parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000724]

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Badman Report (Beverley and Holderness)

The Petition of persons resident in the Beverley and Holderness parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Graham Stuart, Official Report,* 8 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 268 .]

[P000490]

Petitions in the same terms were presented by the hon. Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) [P000716]; the hon. Member for Sherwood (Paddy Tipping) [P000714]; the hon. Member for South-West Devon (Mr. Streeter) [P000713]; the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) [P000700]; the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) [P000697]; the hon. Member for Sunderland, South (Mr. Mullin) [P000695]; the hon. Member for City of York (Hugh Bayley) [P000694]; the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale) [P000693]; the hon. Member for Totnes (Mr. Steen) [P000689]; the hon. Member for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Mr. Betts) [P000686]; the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) [P000665]; the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) [P000653]; the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) [P000652]; the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) [P000651]; the hon. Member for Gravesham (Mr. Holloway) [P000646]; the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) [P000645]; the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams) [P000644]; the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr. Anderson) [P000643]; the hon. Member for Tiverton and Honiton (Angela Browning) [P000642]; the hon. Member for Scarborough and Whitby (Mr. Goodwill) [P000641]; the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) [P000633]; the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth) [P000631]; the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) [P000628]; the hon. Member for Uxbridge (Mr. Randall) [P000624]; the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams) [P000623]; the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) [P000622]; the hon. Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) [P000614]; the hon. Member for Watford (Claire Ward) [P000613]; the hon. Member for Cheadle (Mark Hunter) P000612]; the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert) [P000599]; the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) [P000586]; the hon. Member for Gainsborough (Mr. Leigh) [P000583]; the hon. Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis) [P000581]; the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) [P000571]; the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) [P000569]; the hon. Member for Poole (Mr. Syms) [P000568]; the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) [P000566]; the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts) [P000565]; the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) [P000564]; the hon. Member for Epping Forest (Mrs. Laing) [P000562]; the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd) [P000559]; the hon. Member for South Norfolk (Mr. Bacon) [P000554]; the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) [P000553]; the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) [P000551]; the hon. Member for Barnsley, Central (Mr. Illsley) [P000550]; the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) [P000549]; the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) [P000548]; the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr. Walker) [P000545]; the hon. Member for Cities of London and Westminster (Mr. Field) [P000544]; the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) [P000543]; the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr. Robertson) [P000542]; the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) [P000541]; the hon. Member for Crewe and Nantwich (Mr. Timpson) [P000540]; the hon. Member for Windsor (Adam Afriyie) [P000539]; the hon. Member for North Shropshire (Mr. Paterson) [P000538]; the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) [P000537]; the hon. Member for Wantage (Mr. Vaizey) [P000536]; the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) [P000535]; the hon. Member for Staffordshire, Moorlands (Charlotte Atkins) [P000534]; the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) [P000533]; the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) [P000532]; the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) [P000531]; the hon. Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) [P000528]; the hon. Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck) [P000527]; the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr. Heath) [P000526]; the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes) [P000525]; the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) [P000524]; the hon. Member for Bristol, North-West (Dr. Naysmith) [P000523];the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith) [P000522]; the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) [P000521]; the hon. Member for Luton, North (Kelvin Hopkins) [P000520]; the hon. Member for Croydon, Central (Mr. Pelling) [P000519]; the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Mr. Waterson) [P000518]; the hon. Member for South Suffolk (Mr. Yeo) [P000517]; the hon. Member for Elmet (Colin Burgon) [P000515]; the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory) [P000513]; the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray) [P000512]; the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) [P000511]; the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) [P000510]; the right hon. Member for North-East Hampshire (Mr. Arbuthnot) [P000509]; the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke) [P000508]; the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton) [P000507]; the hon. Member for High Peak (Tom Levitt) [P000506]; hon. Member for Walthamstow (Mr. Gerrard) [P000505]; the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs. Gillan) [P000504]; the hon. Member for Bromsgrove (Miss Kirkbride) [P000503]; the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) [P000501]; the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) [P000499]; the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) [P000498]; the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) [P000497]; the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) [P000496]; the hon. Member for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton) [P000495]; the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech) [P000492]; the hon. Member for Woking (Mr. Malins) [P000487]; the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey (Derek Wyatt) [P000486]; the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) [P000484]; the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) [P000483]; the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) [P000481]; the hon. Member for Henley (John Howell) [P000480]; the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr. Ainsworth) [P000478]; the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) [P000477]; the hon. Member for Bristol, West (Stephen Williams) [P000476]; the hon. Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond) [P000475]; the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) [P000474]; the hon. Member for Orpington (Mr. Horam) [P000473]; the hon. Member for Newbury (Mr. Benyon) [P000472]; the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) [P000471]; the hon. and learned Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) [P000470]; the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) [P000469]; the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) [P000468]; the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) [P000464]; the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr. Djanogly) [P000463]; the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (David Lepper) [P000462]; the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross (John Thurso) [P000461]; the hon. Member for Hexham (Mr. Atkinson) [P000460]; the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) [P000459]; the hon. Member for Easington (John Cummings) [P000455]; the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) [P000452]; the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) [P000451]; the hon. Member for Burton (Mrs. Dean) [P000448]; the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Derek Conway) [P000446]; the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley (John Hemming) [P000443]; the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) [P000440]; the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) [P000439]; the hon. Member for Heywood and Middleton (Jim Dobbin) [P000438]; the hon. Member for Walsall, North (Mr. Winnick) [P000437]; and the hon. Member for Bridgwater (Mr. Liddell-Grainger) [P000436].

Petitions in the same terms were also presented from persons resident in the following constituencies: Northampton, South [P000722]; Southampton, Test [P000717]; Runnymede and Weybridge [P000704]; Sheffield, Heeley [P000703]; Newcastle upon Tyne, North [P000701]; Stockport [P000698]; Exeter [P000696]; North-East Cambridgeshire [P000692]; Mid-Worcestershire [P000690]; Kent [P000685]; Leyton and Wanstead [P000684]; Bolton, South-East [P000683]; Leigh [P000682]; Rugby and Kenilworth [P000681]; Market Harborough [P000680]; Hackney, South and Shoreditch [P000679]; Birmingham, Perry Bar [P000678]; Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr [P000677]; Streatham [P000676]; City of Chester [P000675]; Maidstone and The Weald [P000674]; Wallasey [P000673]; Wirral, West [P000672]; South-West Surrey [P000671]; Birkenhead [P000670]; Glasgow, East [P000669]; Dulwich and West Norwood [P000668]; Wirral, South [P000667]; Derbyshire [P000666]; Holborn and St. Pancras [P000663]; Stockton, South [P000662]; Chingford and Woodford Green [P000661]; Hackney, North and Stoke Newington [P000660]; Lewisham, Deptford [P000659]; Edmonton [P000658]; Twickenham [P000657]; Falmouth and Camborne [P000656]; Brentford and Isleworth [P000647]; Bournemouth, West [P000654]; Aylesbury [P000634]; Charnwood [P000632]; North Swindon [P000630]; Chichester [P000618]; Reigate [P000617]; Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle [P000616]; Maidenhead [P000615]; Ealing, Southall [P000580]; Kensington and Chelsea [P000560]; Stevenage [P000558]; Hitchen and Harpenden [P000516]; Sheffield, Hillsborough [P000514]; Gloucester [P000502]; Chipping Barnet [P000485]; Hove [P000479]; Cannock Chase [P000465]; Swansea, West [P000458]; Bath [P000457]; Portsmouth, North [P000456]; Hampstead and Highgate [P000449]; West Worcestershire [P000447]; Harrow, East [P000445]; Hendon [P000444]; Brent, South [P000552]; Buckingham [P000500]; Witney [P000547]; North-East Hertfordshire [P000621]; Finchley and Golders Green [P000620]; Northampton, South [P000619];

Hartlepool [P000611]; Beckenham [P000610]; Salisbury [P000609]; Reading, West [P000608]; Welwyn Hatfield [P000607]; Wrexham [P000606]; Dudley, South [P000605]; Torfaen [P000604]; Burton [P000603]; Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush [P000602]; South Staffordshire [P000601]; Mole Valley [P000600]; Ellesmere Port and Neston [P000598]; Eccles [P000597]; The Wrekin [P000596]; Dudley, North [P000595]; Stratford-on-Avon [P000594]; Redcar [P000593]; Basildon [P000592]; Colne Valley [P000591]; Conwy [P000589]; Daventry [P000588]; Stretford and Urmston [P000585]; Mid-Sussex [P000584]; Crawley [P000582]; Battersea [P000578]; Poplar and Canning Town [P000577]; Rayleigh [P000576]; Stoke-on-Trent [P000575]; Torridge and West Devon [P000574]; City of Durham [P000573]; Montgomeryshire [P000572]; South-East Cambridgeshire [P000557]; Brighton, Kemptown [P000556]; Newport, West [P000555]; Leeds, North-West [P000546]; Norwich, South [P000494]; Hereford [P000491]; Winchester [P000489]; and Spelthorne [P000488];

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, received 26 January:

DCSF commissioned the Badman review of home education in January 2009 and the report was published on 11 June 2009. As part of the review, Graham Badman took written and oral evidence from a range of individuals and organisations who responded to his public call for evidence, including home educators and local authorities. Alongside this he also considered published literature, the current legal position and guidance and the approaches taken in other countries. He was also assisted by an expert reference group. I am confident that his report draws from a wide and heterogeneous evidence base.

The recent Children, Schools and Families Select Committee report also considered the Badman report and was supportive of most of the recommendations. It agreed that a short statement of educational approach would be helpful in establishing dialogue between home educating families and local authorities; that an annual meeting between local authorities and home educators was needed; and that better support for home educators and better training for local authorities would together lead to an improvement on the current arrangements.

Home Education registration and monitoring proposals are included in the Children, Schools and Families Bill which has now had second reading in the House of Commons. They will put in place light touch regulation and monitoring arrangements and our guidance will make it clear that this will be proportionate and focused on support and encouragement for home educating families. We have also committed around £21 million in the first year to additional support for home educating families, which has a focus on children with SEN and home educated children who would like to attend FE College courses.

Home education is an established part of the British education system and the vast majority of home educators who do a good job will find monitoring supportive and—for the first time—backed by real resources. Our reforms will not require home educators to adopt a particular approach, to teach a specific curriculum, or for their children to take SATs tests or specific public examinations. After these reforms are implemented, England will remain one of the most liberal countries in the developed world for home educators to live in.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Park Home Sales

The Petition of persons resident in the constituency of Mid Dorset and North Poole and others,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that unscrupulous park owners are able to force home owners to accept lower than market value prices for their property, by demanding interviews with prospective buyers and raising unreasonable objections to purchases.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward proposals to amend the Mobile Homes Act 1983, in order to create the following requirements: that a park owner should not have the right to demand an interview with a person buying a home; that where a park owner believes an interview is necessary, that interview should be held in the office and in the presence of a lawyer with a registered legal practice; that in such a case the lawyer must be satisfied that the reasons for the interview are reasonable, that statements made by the park owner are not fraudulent, and that the buyer's references are satisfactory; that the lawyer concerned must be acceptable to both parties and shall before the interview make himself aware of the contents of the Mobile Homes Act 1983 and other associated legislation; and that the park owner must meet the cost of the lawyer's services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Annette Brooke, Official Report,* 9 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 467 .]

[P000453]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State recognises the concerns of the Petitioners regarding interference with the sales of park homes. The Secretary of State also recognises that interference with the sales process is just one of a number of methods that a minority of site owners engage in in order to exploit, intimidate, or harass their residents or to prevent them from exercising their rights.

The Secretary of State is committed to the following package of reforms that will protect residents:

(1) Transferring the jurisdiction for dispute resolution from the courts to the Residential Property Tribunal. From April 2010, subject to Parliament's approval, residents will have quicker, cheaper, fairer and greater access to justice.

(2) Reforming the site licensing system so that incompetent, unscrupulous and criminal people are not permitted to run residential park home sites. A consultation paper, published in May 2009, proposes a more robust park home site licensing system where only "fit and proper persons" can hold park home site licences and local authorities will have duties to impose management conditions in licences and a range of enforcement tools to ensure that site licensing conditions are complied with. The proposals are intended to drive up the management standards with a view to preventing exploitation of residents and ensuring they are able to exercise their rights. Where management standards are unacceptable local authorities will have powers to put alternative management arrangements in place. The consultation closed on 4 August 2009 and it is anticipated

that the Government Response will be published shortly. Proposals will be taken forward at the earliest legislative opportunity.

(3) Reforms to the Mobile Homes Act 1983 to improve the transparency and workability of the terms implied in residents' agreements. As part of these reforms we will consider what changes are needed to the sales process. We will consult on proposals in 2010.

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Darryl Godbold, Trish Lepulelei, local residents and others,

Declares that the proposed development at the Hadleigh Tennis Club should be rejected because the new and much larger building, pathway and proposed new uses of the club would bring unacceptable problems, including parking, inaccessibility for the emergency services, increase in hard surfaces, increased demands on insufficient foul and surface water drainage capacity, conflict with wildlife, and possible further encroachment onto the green belt following improper green belt encroachment a few years ago for a new driveway; further declares it would bring about an unacceptable intensification of use in this residential cul-de-sac, including a bar, social and fund raising functions; and further declares that previous planning conditions to avoid street parking difficulties have not been honoured.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to encourage Castle Point Borough Councillors, rather than officers, to consider this objection and Petition and to reject the application and to be held to account for their decision.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 30 November 2009; Vol. 501, c. 943 .]

[P000435]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application had been submitted to Castle Point Borough Council in respect of the development and he is advised that the council rejected the application on 4 December.

Petitions

Thursday 28 January 2010

OBSERVATIONS

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

The Petition of persons concerned about climate change,

Declares that, from a historical point of view, the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen is one of the most significant gatherings ever; that the world has precious little time to reach an agreement which will secure the future habitability of the planet; that climate change hits poor people first and worst as they face increasingly unpredictable weather, hunger and disease; further declares that this is a massive injustice because the poorest people are the least responsible for causing climate change and have the least resources to cope; further declares that at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference the world community will try to agree a solution to the gravest threat it has ever faced, that of global warming; further declares that the petitioners are doing what they can to reduce their personal contribution to global warming, but know that the world needs a fair and strong international climate change agreement.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to work with other countries in the United Nations to ensure: that the needs of the world's poorest people are at the heart of a new global climate change deal; that rich countries cut their emissions first; that rich countries provide the money and technology needed for developing countries to adapt to changing climates; and that less developed countries also invest in their most vulnerable communities to help them adapt to climate change.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Roberta Blackman-Woods, Official Report,* 15 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 934 .]

[P000639]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:

The UK Government recognise that any international climate agreement must support poor and vulnerable countries to respond to the challenges of climate change.

At the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009, representatives of 49 countries reached agreement on the Copenhagen Accord. Under the Accord, countries agreed to work to limit the increase in global temperatures to below 2°C.

Under the Accord, developing as well as developed countries have agreed for the first time to make specific commitments to tackling emissions, to be lodged in an appendix to the agreement by 31 January 2010. The Accord includes significant commitments on climate finance to help developing countries tackle and adapt to climate change. Developed countries have agreed to provide fast start finance approaching $30 billion for the period 2010 to 2012. This will be allocated in a balanced fashion between adaptation and mitigation, with adaptation funding prioritised for the most vulnerable developing countries such as the least developed countries, small island developing states and Africa. It will include up to £1.5 billion from the UK. In the longer-term the Accord supports the goal of $100 billion a year of public and private finance for developing countries by 2020.

The Accord highlights the challenge faced by all countries in adapting to climate change, and agrees that developed countries will provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries. A Technology Mechanism will be established to accelerate technology development and transfer in support of action on mitigation and adaptation. The Accord also calls for the establishment of a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, which will support projects, programme, policies and other activities in developing countries related to mitigation (including REDD-plus), adaptation, capacity building, technology development and transfer.

These are important steps forward but we know the world needs to go further. We must ensure that countries deliver on their commitments to provide immediate fast start financing for developing countries. The UK Government are committed to providing early financing to support the poorest and most vulnerable countries tackle climate change. We are working with other developed and developing countries to ensure they put forward the most ambitious targets and mitigation actions possible for inclusion in the Accord at the end of January. Building on this, the UK will be working in partnership with a wide range of developed and developing countries to work towards a legally binding international agreement.

Climate Change (Copenhagen Talks)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Tiverton and Honiton in Devon and others, regarding the Climate Change Talks in Copenhagen in December 2009,

Declares that the following should result from the Copenhagen Talks: all countries should agree to take urgent action to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) levels in the atmosphere to 350 parts per milion; developed countries should take the lead, given our major responsibility for past emissions; and developed countries should give financial help to the developing world to help them adapt to climate change and invest in renewable energies.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to do all it can at Copenhagen to achieve these goals.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Angela Browning, Official Report,* 9 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 934.]

[P000530]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:

At the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009, representatives of 49 countries reached agreement on the Copenhagen Accord. Under the Accord, countries agreed to work to limit the increase in global temperatures to below 2°C. Climate models show that above 2°C the risks of damaging impacts and associated costs rise sharply, as food production declines, water stress increases markedly, sea level rises and species loss accelerates. Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are already at 320ppm. If we wanted to limit levels to 350ppm all countries would need to stop emitting immediately. This would severely constrain developing country growth. Limiting emissions levels to 450ppm is an ambitious, yet realistic goal which is still consistent with the 2 degree pathway.

Under the Accord developing, as well as developed countries have agreed for the first time to make specific commitments to tackling emissions, to be lodged in an appendix to the agreement by 31 January 2010. The Accord includes significant commitments on climate finance to help developing countries tackle and adapt to climate change. Developed countries have agreed to provide fast start finance approaching $30 billion for the period 2010 to 2012. This will be allocated in a balanced fashion between adaptation and mitigation, with adaptation funding prioritised for the most vulnerable developing countries such as the least developed countries, small island developing states and Africa. It will include up to £1.5 billion from the UK. In the longer term the Accord supports the goal of $100 billion a year of public and private finance for developing countries by 2020.

The Accord highlights the challenge faced by all countries in adapting to climate change, and agrees that developed countries will provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries. A Technology Mechanism will be established to accelerate technology development and transfer in support of action on mitigation and adaptation. The Accord also calls for the establishment of a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, which will support projects, programme, policies and other activities in developing countries related to mitigation (including REDD-plus), adaptation, capacity building, technology development and transfer.

These are important steps forward but we know the world needs to go further. We must ensure that countries deliver on their commitments to provide immediate fast start financing for developing countries. The UK Government are committed to providing early financing to support the poorest and most vulnerable countries tackle climate change.. We are working with other developed and developing countries to ensure they put forward the most ambitious targets and mitigation actions possible for inclusion in the Accord at the end of January. Lord Stern's analysis has shown that if countries opt for the most ambitious emissions reductions in the ranges that they have put forward, we will be within striking distance of a 2°C pathway, including peaking of global emissions by 2020. Copenhagen signals the start of a truly global effort to tackle climate change, but also a warning that we must keep up momentum if we are to tackle the scale and urgency of the problem.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 18 January 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307108]

Mr. Woodward: Non-consolidated performance payments are made to staff in the senior civil service in line with Cabinet Office guidance and also to staff at grades D2 to A in line with HM Treasury guidance. These payments are made to reward performance throughout the previous reporting year.

Under a separate scheme, non-consolidated special performance payments are awarded to staff to reward particularly meritorious contributions throughout the year.

The total amount of non-consolidated performance payments made to Northern Ireland Office (NIO) staff since 2006 is shown in the following tables.

Number of non-consolidated year end performance payments

	Number of payments	Total amount (£)
2006-07	324	557,000.00
2007-08	[1]409	609,875.00
2008-09	563	599,048.50

[1] This figure does not include non-consolidated performance payments made by the Northern Ireland Prison Service to staff below senior civil service.

Number of in-year special performance payments

	Number of payments	Total amount (£)
2006-07	891	174,882.00
2007-08	809	227,349.48
2008-09	996	260,865.00

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [310755]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not organised media training sessions for Ministers in the last three years.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employment tribunals relating to his Department have been held in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was of such tribunals in each such year. [309939]

Paul Goggins: Only one employment tribunal relating to the Northern Ireland Office core Department has been held in the last five years. The hearing took place in 2007 and found in favour of the Department. Legal costs of £1,762.50 have been paid to date.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310852]

Paul Goggins: Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code respectively.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much the Church of England pension funds paid in bonuses to staff in each of the last three financial years. [310796]

Sir Stuart Bell: Neither the Church of England Pensions Board (which is responsible for clergy pensions earned on service after 1 January 1998 as well as pension schemes for lay employees of Church organisations) nor the Church Commissioners (responsible for pre-1998 clergy pensions) have paid staff bonuses in the last three financial years.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Manpower

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many people were employed by the House in *(a)* visitor services, *(b)* the Parliamentary Education Service, *(c)* catering and *(d)* security in each of the last 10 years; at what cost in each of those years, how many police worked on security for the House on the parliamentary estate in each of those years; and at what cost in each of those years. [310543]

Nick Harvey: The number of people directly employed on these services together with the related cost in the last three years has been:

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Number	*Cost (£000)*	*Number*	*Cost (£000)*	*Number*	*Cost (£000)*
Visitor Services	25.0	475	24.0	766	31.0	1,044
Parliament's Education Service	11.0	271	13.7	385	19.0	539
Catering	277.5	7,983	269.3	9,074	276.7	9,185
Security (Metropolitan Police Service)	470	20,720	520	19,985	520	20,601

The figures show the total number of staff at 1st April each year, excluding casual staff recruited to meet short-term work requirements (e.g. summer tour guides). With the exception of catering, these services are bicameral with the House of Lords being re-charged a proportion of the expenditure incurred. The costs shown represent the Commons share only of all salary-related expenditure. Comparable information before 2006-07 is not available. Security staff listed are not employed by Parliament but provided by the Metropolitan Police Service under the Special Service Agreement.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing from departmental networked computers. [310246]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration, maintenance, monitoring and security of the system, including the provision of hardware and software. An IT Code of Conduct is in place which provides advice and guidance to staff on safe usage of the system, along with software which blocks user access to websites in specified categories for reasons of appropriateness of content or to protect the integrity of the network. This conforms to the same standards as are set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310844]

Ann McKechin: Neither my right hon. Friend nor I have any plans to attend the winter Olympics in Vancouver. There are no plans for his officials to visit the winter Olympics either. Consequently, there will be no costs.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Village

8. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she next expects to meet representatives of relevant local authorities to discuss use of the Olympic Village after the London 2012 Olympics. [310886]

Tessa Jowell: I hold regular meetings with the leaders and mayors of the five east London host boroughs, along with my ministerial colleagues at Communities and Local Government, on a range of issues relating to ensuring a sustainable legacy for east London from the games, including on housing provision on the park site.

After the games the Olympic village will become a significant asset to this part of east London, with over 2,800 homes providing a mixture of private and social housing, available for take-up by both local people and others.

London 2012: Legacy

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the legacy to Amber Valley and the east midlands of hosting the London 2012 Olympics. [310880]

Tessa Jowell: Amber Valley, the east midlands and the whole of the UK will benefit from the sporting, economic and cultural opportunities created by the 2012 Games.

I am aware of two companies based in Amber Valley that have secured contracts to supply the London 2012 Aquatics Centre. 36 businesses registered in the east midlands have won work supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Furthermore, 21 cultural projects in the east midlands have been awarded the Inspire Mark, which provides brand recognition to projects which have been inspired by the 2012 Games, and the Japanese National Olympic Committee have agreed to use Loughborough university and other selected facilities to prepare for the 2012 Games.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of invoices from suppliers the Government Olympic Executive paid within 10 days of receipt in November and December 2009. [311202]

Tessa Jowell: The proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) was 98.46 per cent. in November 2009 and 94.55 per cent. in December 2009.

As GOE reports to me as Minister for the Olympics through the permanent secretary to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), information on invoices paid by GOE will be included within the overall DCMS figure which will be provided by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DCMS.

Government Olympic Executive: Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307100]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE), which reports to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Olympics, London and Paymaster General through the Permanent Secretary to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), makes non-consolidated performance payments to its employees for two purposes: *(a)* in year non-consolidated performance payments to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and *(b)* year end non-consolidated performance payments to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. In both cases they help drive high performance.

Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the reward package for staff, have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (e.g. pensions).

Details of both in-year and year end non-consolidated performance payments for GOE are set out in the table.

These figures are exclusive of two key senior staff in GOE, who were appointed on fixed term contracts ending in 2012 and whose remuneration reflects extensive relevant experience and the unique challenge of delivering the Olympics to a fixed deadline. Details of their remuneration were published in the departmental Annual Reports and Accounts 2009.

	Number of in-year non-consolidated performance payments	*Number of year end non-consolidated performance payments*	*Total (£)*
2008-09	25	26	76,793
2007-08	25	24	67,791
2006-07	9	9	21,341

As GOE is part of DCMS, GOE bonus payments were included in the overall DCMS figures given in the answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DCMS on 2 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 722W.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what procedures are in place under which British citizens may apply to work on construction projects in connection with the London 2012 Olympics. [310928]

Tessa Jowell: Through the 'Jobs, Skills, Futures' brokerage service the Olympic Delivery Authority works in partnership with contractors on the Olympic Park to identify job vacancies that can be made available to local people. Local people, those who give a permanent address in one of the five host boroughs, are given priority access to vacancies that arise on the park. Vacancies are initially offered exclusively and equally to each of the five host borough employment brokerage services and through local Jobcentre Plus offices for a period 48 hours. If no suitable candidates are put forward by the local employment brokerage services, vacancies are then made available throughout London for a further 24 hours though Relay London Jobs. If after this time vacancies are unfilled, they are then advertised nationally through the Jobcentre Plus network.

Olympic Games 2012: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many businesses in the London borough of Bexley are under contract in respect of the construction of venues for the London 2012 Olympic Games. [308848]

Tessa Jowell: As of November 2009 the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) had directly awarded contracts to five suppliers registered in the London borough of Bexley. This does not include companies that have won contracts in the supply chains of the ODA's tier one contractors. The ODA has recently published a map showing that many suppliers are winning work both directly with the ODA and within the supply chains of its contractors. Details of these are available in the business section of the London 2012 website

www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

Olympic Games 2012: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people of each sex in each age group have been working on the Olympic site in each month since construction began; and how many of these are apprentices. [310358]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority publishes details of the Olympic Park workforce on a quarterly basis. The latest report, with data for September 2009, showed that there were 4,842 people working on the Park at that time, and of these, 94 per cent. were male and 6 per cent. were female.

The ODA does not publish information on the age of the workforce, but does monitor the age characteristics of the total Park workforce using voluntary information provided by workers when they begin employment on the site. In September 2009:

0.5 per cent. of the workforce were under the age of 18

44 per cent. of the workforce were aged between 18 and 35

35 per cent. of the workforce were between 36 and 50

17 per cent. of the workforce were aged over 51

The ODA does not have this information for the remaining 3.5 per cent. of the workforce

In November 2009, a total of 120 apprentices were working on the Park.

The next set of figures will be issued this month and will be available on the London 2012 website.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people she expects to be employed on the Olympic site over the duration of the project; and how many of those are apprentices. [310359]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority forecasts that 30,000 people will work on the Olympic Park and Village over the lifetime of the construction programme. The ODA is working closely with its contractors to create 2,250 trainees, apprenticeships and work placements across the park and village, 350 of these are to be apprenticeships.

Olympic Games 2012: Marketing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent on social media and networking accounts in respect of the London 2012 Olympic Games; and on what accounts those funds have been spent. [308474]

Tessa Jowell: The Government are committed to involving, informing and engaging local people in all stages of planning for the Olympic and Paralympic Games which will transform East London. Recognising that the Games will have greatest impact on local communities, the official bid commitments for London 2012 included an extensive engagement programme. The Government Olympic Executive has used social media to support this engagement work and runs an online forum for residents of the five host boroughs in East London. This forum enables invited local people—representative of the wide range of communities in the five host boroughs—to give their views on the Olympics in a context which encouraged ongoing debate and discussion.

The forum has discussed a variety of topics and issues important to local residents. These include how local people can access jobs and training opportunities created by the Olympics; ensuring that all opportunities are inclusive and benefit everyone; planning of the Olympic site and surrounding areas; and how to promote disability issues using the Paralympics. The Government Olympics Executive responds to the information gathered accordingly.

The cost of managing this forum to date, including set up costs, site hosting and recruitment of members has been £128,523.08.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Office are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010 in an official capacity; and at what cost. [310256]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 648W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Domestic W[illegible]: Elderly

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether guidance has been issued to waste collection authorities on the provision of wheeled refuse containers to households with *(a)* disabled and *(b)* frail or elderly residents. [311482]

Dan Norris: While no specific guidance has been issued on this matter, it is normal practice for local authorities to take account of the needs of the frail or disabled when operating waste and recycling services. They do this by either offering a choice of containers or by providing assisted collections. The Disability Discrimination Act now requires local authorities to consider these issues, but the practice of assisted collections was well established before the legislation came into force.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Regulation

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the *(a)* safety and *(b)* regulatory approval process of genetically modified crops and foods. [311435]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has received various items of correspondence recently from members of the public and other stakeholders on the environmental safety and regulatory control of GM crops. The Food Standards Agency has lead responsibility for the safety and regulation of GM foods and animal feeds.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which genetically-modified products are authorised for sale in the UK. [311441]

Dan Norris: Decisions on the commercial release of genetically modified (GM) products are taken at European Union (EU) level. Currently there are 31 GM products that are authorised for food and animal feed uses in the EU. Full details are available on the European Commission website. Only one type of GM crop seed has EU approval for cultivation and is being sold in some EU member states, but it is not being marketed in the UK because it is unsuitable for our growing conditions. It is a type of insect-resistant maize known as MON 810.

Waste Management

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects to finalise the draft end-of-waste protocol; [311360]

(2) when he expects to respond to comments made under Article 8(2) of the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC) on the draft end-of-waste protocol. [311361]

Dan Norris: On 23 and 26 November 2009 the European Commission and Austria respectively commented under Article 8(2) of the Technical Standards Directive on the draft end-of-waste protocol for fuel produced from waste lubricating oil that the UK notified under Article 8(1) of the Directive. The UK is required to take such comments into account as far as possible in the subsequent preparation of the protocol. Our aim is to conclude consideration of these comments within the three month period that would have applied in the event of the UK's receiving a detailed opinion under Article 9(2) of the Directive. The Environment Agency will make a statement about the finalisation of the protocol on conclusion of our consideration of the comments made under Article 8(2) of the Directive.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's research report WR0105 on measuring waste prevention. [311484]

Dan Norris: The report for project WR0105 (Project REDUCE Monitoring and Evaluation - Developing Tools to Measure Waste Prevention) is available from DEFRA's website by entering "WR0105" into the search tool at the following address:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Location=None &Module= FilterSearchNewLook&Completed=0

WALES

Departmental Billings

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311200]

Mr. David: The Wales Office paid 96 per cent. of its invoices in December 2009 within 10 days.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310518]

Mr. David: The Wales Office has a main building in London and rents serviced office space in Cardiff. The Department has no vacant office space.

The London building has 9,655 square feet of office space and was last valued in 2008 at £1.4 million.

The Cardiff office has an area of approximately 6,000 square feet. As it is part of a larger, privately-owned building, it is not possible to give an estimation of its value.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310815]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not collect information on food waste generated. My Department does not have any catering facilities in house, and therefore does not routinely generate food waste.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing on networked computers. [310765]

Mr. David: The Wales Office obtains its information technology services from the Ministry of Justice. Staff are expected to comply with rules regulating the use of departmental computers, including internet use.

The IT system uses specialist blocking software to prevent users gaining access to inappropriate websites, such as those containing offensive, racist or defamatory content; gambling or betting sites; those that may circumvent information security rules such as web-based e-mail; and sites that may affect the efficiency of the network.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [310756]

Mr. Hain: None.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has had recent discussions with the First Minister on the extent to which people are trafficked between Wales and England for purposes of sexual exploitation. [309358]

Mr. Hain: While I have not discussed this matter recently with the First Minister, the aim of both Governments is to ensure that we tackle the horrendous crime of human trafficking.

The Government's comprehensive victim-focused strategy to combat all forms of trafficking throughout the UK is contained in the UK Action Plan on Trafficking first published in 2007 updated in October 2009. This is available at

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/human trafficking004.htm

We recognise the vulnerability of children to trafficking to and within the UK and that this can happen for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Following consultation guidance for practitioners on child trafficking has been published by both Governments. This is available at:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/trafficked/?lang=en

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=HMG-00994-2007&

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310853]

Mr. Hain: None.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are plans to allocate part of Kandahar province to the UK's area of responsibility. [309613]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are not aware of any such plans.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value was of allowances paid to civilian staff based in Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [310651]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* UK armed forces personnel and *(b)* personnel of other coalition forces were deployed in the operation to deliver a turbine to Kajaki dam in September 2008; and what the duration was of that operation. [311002]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The operation took 17 days but the number of UK and other coalition forces deployed is difficult to collate because of the various different phases and the number of support tasks involved. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries to personnel were sustained in the operation to deliver and install the turbine to Kajaki dam in September 2008. [311004]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No UK deaths were sustained in the operation to deliver and install the turbine at Kajaki dam in September 2008. Four UK personnel sustained injuries in the operation.

Armed Forces: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1362-3W, on armed forces: foreigners, how many of the 390 British Overseas Territories personnel serving in the armed forces *(a)* are trained helicopter pilots and *(b)* serve in the Royal Air Force. [309275]

Bill Rammell: Of the 390 British Overseas Territories personnel serving in the armed forces as at 1 September 2009, fewer than five are trained helicopter pilots. 10 are serving in the Royal Air Force, one of whom is a trained helicopter pilot. All figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength is of deployable troops of each infantry battalion. [311107]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1150W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox). In that table, the "Number Fit for Task" column represents the actual deployable strength of each infantry battalion.

Just under 89 per cent. of current infantry strength is deployable. This includes those who have some limitations placed on the roles they can perform on operations. The vast majority of the remainder are contributing to military capability in a variety of supporting roles in home locations.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average cost per service personnel patient was for *(a)* below knee and *(b)* above knee prosthesis follow-up in the (i) Defence Medical Services and (ii) NHS in the latest period for which information is available; [309990]

(2) how often *(a)* above knee and *(b)* below knee amputees were routinely followed up in the (i) Defence Medical Services and (ii) NHS in the latest period for which information is available. [309991]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on the cost per service personnel patient to the DMS for prosthesis follow-up is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, in general, the long term cost of maintaining an above-knee amputee are considerably more that a below-knee amputee because of the expensive artificial knee components.

As regards frequency of follow-up for DMS patients, on average the numbers of follow-up appointments for above-knee and below-knee amputee patients are equal. The average patient will require diminishing prosthetics input up until year three when only regular servicing is required. Outlined as follows is the average number of follow-up appointments:

	Average number of follow-up appointments
Year one	17
Year two	12
Year three and beyond	3 per year

NHS information on the cost per patient, whether a veteran or not, for prosthesis follow-up is not held centrally.

NHS assessments for prosthetics are undertaken at any one of 35 prosthetic centres within England with decisions on follow-up and aftercare being included within the assessment. This decision is agreed with an individual to ensure their circumstances and requirements are taken into consideration.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules are in place in respect of routine visits by a regimental associations to soldiers in the military ward of Selly Oak hospital. [310794]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Visits by members of regimental associations would usually be treated as "pastoral" rather than "official" visits. Pastoral visits are always welcome, but are subject to the wishes of the patient and to local hospital visiting rules and hours.

Further, visits by family and close friends take precedence, and consequently there may not always be the capacity to allow visits by regimental associations. For that reason, associations are strongly advised to check first with the Headquarters Joint Medical Command Visits Coordinator in order to avoid conflict with higher priority visitors before travel.

Armed Forces: Hearing Impaired People

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen have suffered hearing loss in the course of their duties in each year since 1999. [304010]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 993W, to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell).

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the army uniform contract; and if he will make a statement. [311005]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Invitations to tender for the cut and sew contract (for army uniforms) were sent on 11 January 2010 to the six companies/consortia that passed pre-qualification. Responses are due by 17 March 2010 and the contract is scheduled to be awarded by summer 2010.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* requirement, *(b)* actual number available and *(c)* percentage shortfall is of each type of armoured vehicle used for pre-deployment training in the latest period for which figures are available. [309235]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the information requested to avoid deductions being made about current and future operational capability. Its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability effectiveness or security of the armed forces. However, I can confirm that the number of vehicles available for pre-deployment training continues to improve as procurement programmes deliver against requirements. For example the number of Ridgback vehicles in the training pool increased by 87 per cent. between July and January.

Atomic Veterans Claimant Group

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates in 2008, 2009 and 2010 his Department's lawyers met legal representatives of the Atomic Veterans Claimant Group. [311462]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department's lawyers met legal representatives of the Atomic Veterans Claimant Group on 6 July, 27 July, 15 September, 30 September and 1 October 2009.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme pension of each of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its agencies. [311008]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total cash equivalent transfer value for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme pensions (PCSPS) of the 10 highest paid members in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) totals some £4.672 million as at 15 January 2010. Some of these individuals will be named in the Remuneration Reports that form part of the MOD's Resource Accounts in which the cash equivalent transfer values of their PCSPS pensions are reported annually. The Remuneration Reports are in the public domain. These figures relate solely to civilian staff and do not include members of the armed forces.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the enhanced early retirement scheme for civil servants in his Department and its agencies has been in each year since 1997. [311009]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: International Cooperation

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the UK has in the NATO Airlift Management Agency. [303005]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311266]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In December 2009, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) paid 98.7 per cent. of invoices within 10 days.

This figure relates to invoices processed by the MOD Financial Management Shared Service Centre and the four MOD trading funds:

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Meteorological Office
Defence Support Group
UK Hydrographic Office.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies plans to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 per cent. in 2010. [311464]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD is committed to reducing its carbon dioxide emissions, and has already met the Government target to reduce emissions from its estate by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11 relative to the 1999-2000 baseline. There is a programme of work to further reduce our emissions across the entire Defence Estate.

Noting the work already under way in MOD the Secretary of State wrote to staff in October 2009 encouraging them to join 10:10.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310816]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence does not hold data on the amount of food waste generated. It is included as part of the overall figure for departmental waste arisings.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing from departmental networked computers. [310055]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The vast majority of MOD's networked computers with Internet connection access the World Wide Web via the Department's Enterprise Gateway Service (EGS). The EGS uses commercial web categorisation software, which places the huge number of websites on the Internet (believed to exceed 100 million) into about 100 categories. MOD then determines which categories can be accessed, and which ones are blocked.

Categories are blocked because they fall into one of the following types:

They contravene the MOD Acceptable Use Policy;

They pose a risk to the technical security of the network, or to broader information security;

They result in excessive consumption of bandwidth or other technical resource, or of staff time.

Also, to safeguard security of MOD networks, MOD does not permit access to sites using mobile code (e.g. Java, Active X).

The attached document, Information Management Protocol 049, is published by the Chief Information Officer on the Defence Intranet, and this explains further detail. A copy of the MOD Acceptable Use Policy (JSP 740) is also attached.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 831W, on departmental pay, on what basis £1,860 was paid to two individuals; and to which executive agency or non-departmental public body they were engaged. [310148]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: One payment was made by the Met Office for performance against pre-agreed targets, and one payment was made by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency for exceptional effort.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 521-2W, on armed forces: costs, what information his Department holds centrally on the amount it has charged *(a)* other Government departments, *(b)* private sector companies and *(c)* foreign governments in employment costs for (i) members of his Department's civilian staff and (ii) military personnel. [310009]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We hold no central information on the amount charged for personnel services. Such information is not accounted for discretely and does not need to be reported centrally.

Future Large Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated total cost is of the Airbus A400M project. [308622]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The value of the fixed price acquisition contract for A400M, let on behalf of participating nations, is €20 billion.

The current forecast cost of A400M for the UK, including initial training and support, is £3,285 million, as published in the Major Projects Report 2009.

Haslar Hospital

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to whom Haslar Hospital was sold. [311289]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Haslar Hospital site in Gosport was sold to Our Enterprise (Haslar) Ltd. in November 2009.

Israel: Armed Forces

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what aspects of military co-operation were to have been discussed with the group of military officers from Israel whose proposed visit to the UK was recently cancelled. [311031]

Bill Rammell: The Israeli delegation planned to attend a joint Israeli-Kings College academic workshop. This was not at the invitation of MOD and, therefore, no official discussions of UK-Israel defence co-operation were planned.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions Israel Defence Forces personnel have been invited to the UK for discussions with *(a)* Ministers or officials of his Department and *(b)* members of the armed forces since 2005; and what topics were discussed; [311032]

(2) what areas of expertise of the Israel Defence Forces that have been shared with *(a)* his Department and *(b)* members of the armed forces. [311033]

Bill Rammell: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Israel is an important strategic partner of the UK and, as part of that relationship, the MOD has an ongoing and wide ranging dialogue with the Israeli Defence Force and Israeli Ministry of Defence. This engagement is in line with HMG's policy of supporting the Middle East Peace Process by having a balanced relationship with the Israelis and the Palestinians. Recent areas of discussion have included regional defence issues, the Middle East Peace Process, and the UK's role in training Palestinian Authority security forces. However, detailed information is withheld as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and Israel.

NATO Cyber-security Centre of Excellence: Overseas Aid

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance the UK is providing to the NATO Cyber-security Centre of Excellence in Estonia. [311352]

Bill Rammell: The United Kingdom is fully supportive of this Estonian-hosted Cyber Defence initiative and their endeavours in this important area.

We have not made a direct financial contribution to the costs of the Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. Both the current head of the MOD Defence Security and Assurance Service and his predecessor, as well as other senior officers and Government officials, have visited the Centre of Excellence, participated in its conferences and in specific mutually beneficial work-streams.

Radioactive Materials: Imports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which countries uranium used in *(a)* British nuclear warheads and *(b)* nuclear submarine propulsion fuel has been obtained since 1980; and what information has been provided to the International Atomic Energy Agency on such imports. [310089]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In March 2006 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) produced a report entitled "Historical Accounting for UK Defence Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU)". The report was announced on 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 24WS. The report, covering the period from the start of the UK's nuclear programme through to 31 March 2002, confirms that the UK obtained HEU for its military programme from two sources—The Gas Diffusion Plant at BNFL Capenhurst, and through exchanges with the US Department of Energy under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement. This does not contravene our obligations under the non-proliferation treaty. There has been no subsequent change to this position, nor is there any requirement to inform the International Atomic Energy Agency of any such acquisitions as MOD HEU is held outside international safeguards for defence purposes but is subject to a strict materials accountancy regime.

RAF Fairfield

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to establish the exact boundaries of the site of RAF Fairfield. [310795]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This Department has reviewed the boundaries of RAF Fairford so that accurate maps can be produced. These maps will be used for making new Ministry of Defence byelaws under the Military Lands Act 1892 and for revising the property title in the Land Registry. The work is ongoing.

A number of issues which emerged during the review process will be taken up with the appropriate authorities including the highways Agency and neighbouring property owners.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff of the Equality and Human Rights Commission from each ethnic group *(a)* lodged grievances, *(b)* started employment tribunal proceedings, *(c)* were subject to disciplinary action and *(d)* were subject to capability procedures between 1 October 2007 and 31 March 2009. [310481]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has provided the information in the following table:

Ethnic origin	*Number of people who submitted grievance*	*Number of people who submitted ETI*	*Number of people in a disciplinary procedure*	*Number of people subject to formal capability procedures*
White	16	6	3	—
Asian	2	—	—	—
Chinese	2	—	—	—
Mixed	5	—	—	—
Black	3	2	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Not stated	4	5	1	—
Total	32	13	4	0

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality for what reasons staff of the Equality and Human Rights Commission of each ethnic group left the employment of the Commission between 1 October 2007 and 31 March 2009. [310482]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has provided the following table showing reasons for staff exit by ethnic group.

Ethnic origin group	*Death*	*Dismissal*	*Other reasons*	*Redundancy*	*Resignation*	*Retirement*	*Grand total*
Asian	—	—	—	—	3	—	3

Ethnic origin group	*Death*	*Dismissal*	*Other reasons*	*Redundancy*	*Resignation*	*Retirement*	*Grand total*
Black	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
White	—	—	7	1	24	2	34
Chinese	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Mixed	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Not stated	—	1	1	—	12	—	14
Total	1	1	8	1	43	2	56

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff from each ethnic group were employed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission between October 2007 and March 2009. [310515]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has provided the following information.

Ethnic origin group	*Total*
Asian	11
Black	9
Chinese	1
White	99
Mixed	3
Other	2
Not stated	26
Total	151

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people from each ethnic group *(a)* applied for and *(b)* secured (i) permanent employment, (ii) temporary employment, (iii) promotion and (iv) staff training at the Equality and Human Rights Commission between 1 October 2007 and 31 March 2009. [310516]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has provided the following data:

(a)(i) Applied for permanent recruitment 1 July 2008[1] to 31 March 2009

Ethnicity	*Total*
Asian	224
Black	198
Chinese	27
White	1,510
Mixed	93
Not stated	60
Total	2,112

[1] Detailed records for recruitment monitoring for the Commission are available from 1 July 2008.

(a)(ii) Applied for temporary[1] recruitment 1 July 2008[2] to 31 March 2009

Ethnicity	*Total*
Asian	47
Black	23
White	414
Mixed	20
Not disclosed	9
Total	528

[1] Temporary employees include those on fixed term contract and exclude agency and consultancy workers.

[2] Detailed records for recruitment monitoring for the Commissionare available from 1 July 2008.

(b)(i) Secured permanent employment between October 2007 and March 2009

Ethnicity	*Total*
Asian	11
Black	9
Chinese	1
White	99
Mixed	3
Other	2
Not stated	26
Total	151

(b)(ii) Secured temporary[1] employment between October 2007 and March 2009

Ethnicity	*Total*
Asian	2
Black	0
Chinese	0
White	4
Mixed	0
Other	0
Not stated	0
Total	6

[1] Temporary employees include those on fixed term contract and exclude agency and consultancy workers.

Applied for, and secured, staff training between October 2007 and March 2009[1]: 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2009[2]

Ethnicity	*Total employees*	*Number received training*
Asian	31	30
Black	37	32
Chinese	4	5
White	305	250
Mixed	11	12
Other	4	4
Not stated	16	10
Total	408	343

[1] No formal training took place between 1 October 2007 and January 2008, when our mandatory training programme commenced.

[2] This includes both permanent and temporary staff.

There were five unsuccessful applications for funding for training. Following is a breakdown of the ethnic origin of the applicants.

Ethnicity	*Total*
White	5

JUSTICE

Courts: Interpreters

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 842W, on interpreters: finance, for what reasons he has not yet written to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford with the information he undertook to provide by Christmas 2009. [310642]

Bridget Prentice: I apologise for the delay. However, during the collation of the information requested, we identified that inconsistent answers had been given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Maria Eagle) to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1270- 71W and the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 640-41W and by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 955-56W and the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 337W, on the subject of interpreters expenditure. This necessitated an investigation which has now concluded. The information requested is provided in the following table and covers all the information the Ministry of Justice holds on interpreters expenditure. I will also write to the hon. Members who received incomplete information with a full response as soon as possible.

Expenditure on interpreters in England and Wales by the Department and its agencies

The expenditure for financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09

To nearest £000

	2008-09	*2007-08*
Ministry of Justice HQ	26	19
HM Courts Service (HMCS)	638	704
HMCS Crown Courts paid from Central Fund Budget	4,503	4,034
Tribunals Service	5,283	6,126
Office of the Public Guardian	40	40
National Offenders Management Service[1]	966	868
Total	11,456	11,791

[1] This figure includes translation costs as well as interpretation costs. The amounts are not separately recorded and can only be disaggregated at disproportionate costs.

The information in the table excludes the following expenditure:

It is not possible to separately identify expenditure on interpreters by magistrates courts from other magistrates costs financed from the Central Fund Budget without incurring the disproportionate cost of examining every transaction, the supporting records for which are held locally. Sample exercises have been undertaken in the past to estimate the proportion of magistrates expenditure that relates to interpreters but they have yielded inconsistent results.

The NOMS figure excludes expenditure by the National Probation Service which is held locally by 42 probation boards and trusts who use separate and different accounting systems. Information could only be determined at disproportionate cost through examination of local records.

Expenditure on interpreters in Essex by the Department and its agencies

Expenditure by Her Majesty's Courts Service for interpreters in Crown courts in the Essex region in 2008-09 was £101,941. The comparable figure for 2007-08 cannot be separately identified from the Central Fund payment records which did not include regional identifiers. Information for other parts of the Department is not recorded on a regional basis and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Suspects, charged individuals and victims

Her Majesty's Courts Service meets interpreters' costs for victims, which are provided above. The police meet interpreters' costs for suspects and charged individuals. Police costs are funded by the Home Office.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305695]

Mr. Wills: There was no refurbishment, improvement or emergency repair works undertaken to Ministers' offices in the Ministry of Justice within the timeframe of the question.

There has been some normal maintenance work to heating, cooling and lighting systems in Ministers' offices. The costs for these visits are part of an overall building maintenance agreement and, while it is not possible to separate them out with accuracy, these costs are estimated to be less than £2,000.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310524]

Mr. Wills: The departmental estate of the Ministry of Justice currently has:

(a) Office space of 68,240 square metres (net internal area), all of which is rented and none of which is vacant.

(b) Annual rental cost of £25,588,986.

The Department also occupies 641square metres in Gwydyr House, Whitehall, London. This site is owned by the Crown Estate and the Department does not pay rent for this office accommodation.

The Ministry of Justice's Estates Transformation Programme is currently working to reduce the number of MOJ buildings in central London.

EC Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the implications for the Government's policy of the European Commission draft regulation on jurisdiction applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and authentic instruments of succession and the creation of a European certificate of succession; and if he will make a statement. [307382]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 140-41WS.

Freedom of Information: Academies

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to designate academy schools as public authorities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [311244]

Mr. Wills: Section 5(3) of the Freedom of Information Act requires the Secretary of State to consult with persons to whom a section 5 order may relate. The consultation with Academy Trusts concluded on 1 December 2009 and the responses received are being considered. Subject to the outcome of this consideration, the Government intend to bring forward a section 5 order in this session of Parliament.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from his Department; and if he will make a statement; [310187]

(2) whether any *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format sought from his Department by the Iraq Inquiry have not been disclosed owing to Government's obligations to foreign governments or international bodies; and if he will make a statement; [310188]

(3) how many and what proportion of the *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided to it by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [310191]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith) has answered on behalf of all Departments. Her answer was published on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W.

Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much of the legal aid budget has been spent on very high cost cases in the last five years. [309629]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission manages individual case contracts on all very high cost criminal cases for trials lasting 41 days or over. The costs are agreed between the service providers and the LSC at each stage. The LSC also manages civil cases where the costs are likely to exceed £25,000 under individual case contracts. Expenditure on criminal and civil very high cost cases is shown in the following tables.

Crime very high cost cases

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Percentage of total criminal defence service expenditure*	*Percentage of total Crown court and higher courts expenditure*
2004-05	96.0	8.0	14.0
2005-06	103.2	8.6	14.8
2006-07	104.6	8.9	16.1
2007-08	124.6	10.8	17.9
2008-09	112.1	9.5	16.5

Civil very high cost cases

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Percentage of total community legal service expenditure*
2004-05	51	6.0
2005-06	57	6.8
2006-07	69	8.5
2007-08	65	7.7
2008-09	75	8.4

Legal Systems: Islam

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the number of marriages and divorces registered by sharia courts in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [311454]

Bridget Prentice: Sharia councils do not describe themselves as 'courts' as they do not have powers to enforce their decisions. Sharia councils are not part of the court system in England and Wales, and are not unified under one system. Marriages conducted under sharia law are not legally recognised in England and Wales unless they also comply with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949. The English and Welsh courts do not legally recognise divorces granted by any faith groups. The Government do not maintain statistics on either marriages or divorces conducted by sharia councils.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many indeterminate sentences for public protection were given tariffs of 23 months or less in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [310660]

Maria Eagle: The number of offenders sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) with a tariff of 23 months or less sentenced in each of the years requested is shown in the following table:

IPPs sentenced with a tariff of 23 months or less

	Number
2005	196
2006	529
2007	547
2008	365

These figures exclude those sentenced to an indeterminate sentence for public protection who subsequently had their sentence quashed.

By virtue of provisions in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, which took effect from 14 July 2008, an IPP may not be passed where the minimum tariff is less than two years, except where offenders have committed extremely serious crimes in the past.

The figures in the table above are taken from the Public Protection Unit Database in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

Prison Sentences: Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders imprisoned with an indeterminate sentence for public protection have been held in secure hospitals since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [310956]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners may be detained in hospital under powers of the Mental Health Act 1983, either if directed to hospital by the court on sentencing or if directed by the Secretary of State during their sentence. They may also be remitted to prison during sentence.

Information is not available in the form requested. To answer how many offenders sentenced to an IPP who have been detained in a secure hospital at some time since 2005 would require manual checking of a large number of case files, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

On 14 January 2010, Ministry of Justice records showed 115 prisoners in hospital under powers of the 1983 Act, who were also serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP).

Prisons: Drugs

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* internal and *(b)* external audits of mandatory drug testing in prisons have been undertaken. [308738]

Maria Eagle: The most recent thematic internal audit of mandatory drug testing (MDT) was undertaken in 2009. Mandatory drug testing will be included in the NOMS audit programme which means that the extent to which each prison is complying with MDT policy will be assessed and reported once every three years.

Independent research on the effectiveness of mandatory drug testing was published by the Office for National Statistics in 2005 at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdso1r0305.pdf

The performance of the MDT analytical laboratory is the subject to regular independent audit.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of accuracy of mandatory drug testing statistics. [308758]

Maria Eagle: A comprehensive assessment of the accuracy of mandatory drug testing (MDT) was undertaken by the Office for National Statistics published in 2005 at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdso1r0305.pdf

It concluded that the mandatory drug testing programme provides a reliable and statistically valid way of measuring patterns and trends of drug misuse in prisons. Random MDT continues to be the best overall measure of drug misuse in prisons.

In addition, MDT processes are assured by a rolling programme of internal audits and an independent quality assurance provider. The last audit concluded that comprehensive guidance was available to prisons and, by extension, did not require updating. Further, urine samples were taken correctly and chain of custody was generally well documented.

The audit also identified areas of concern, which NOMS is now working with prisons to address:

at a third of establishments sampled, there were long periods each month where no random testing was undertaken;

at one establishment the disciplinary award given for test refusals was more lenient than that for positive results; and

establishments were not sending details of refusals to the laboratory. Central records on refusals therefore did not match those held locally.

MDT roles were not always properly recorded in staff performance and development records.

Where urine samples were left with the prison gate prior to collection, a number of establishments did not require gate staff to complete a form to acknowledge receipt of samples.

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated to Victim Support in each year since 1997. [310957]

Claire Ward: The following table details the amount of Government funding allocated to Victim Support since 1997.

Total Government funding to Victim Support

	£ million
1996-97	11.68
1997-98	12.68
1998-99	12.68
1999-2000	17.5
2000-01	18.6
2001-02	25.1
2002-03	29.3
2003-04	30
2004-05	30
2005-06	30
2006-07	30
2007-08	35.8
2008-09	37

Voluntary Work: Offenders

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* convicted and *(b)* prosecuted for offences committed while working as a volunteer with vulnerable adults. [311109]

Claire Ward: Statistical data held by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database record the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales.

Other than where specified in a statute these data do not include information on the circumstances of an offence and it is therefore not possible to identify whether an offence was committed by a volunteer while working with vulnerable adults.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has been created to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. Increased safeguards introduced under the Vetting and Barring Scheme from 12 October 2009 make it a criminal offence for individuals barred by the ISA to work or apply to work with children or vulnerable adults in a wide range of posts.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are expected to be published in the autumn of 2010.

Youth Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours on average a young offender spent in *(a)* general education, *(b)* literacy work, *(c)* numeracy work, *(d)* training, *(e)* physical education and *(f)* recreation/association in each (i) secure children's home, (ii) secure training centre and (iii) young offender institution in the latest period for which figures are available. [308780]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Figures collected by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for September 2008 to August 2009 indicate that in Young People in Prison Service YOIs received an average of 27.5 hours per person per week of education, training and personal development. From October 2009 NOMS have implemented new data collection systems which, along with data returns from the LSC will allow greater accuracy and detail in reporting on education, training and constructive activities in the future.

The YJB report that in private YOIs, young people received an average of 33.9 hours of education, training and personal development activity per week during August 2008 to September 2009.

Data from the YJB indicate that between September 2008 and August 2009, 91.3 per cent. of young people in SCHs received a minimum of 30 hours of provision and in STCs this was 99 per cent. of young people.

These figures encompass a range of education and constructive activities and information is not collected broken down by specific type of activity.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Borders: Personal Records

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what impact assessment has been made of the cost of the e-Borders programme to the aviation industry. [310312]

Mr. Woolas: The potential financial costs to the aviation industry of implementing the data collection requirements of the e-Borders programme were analysed as part of a regulatory impact assessment published in January 2008. The link to the RIA can be found on:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/eBorders-RIA-2008-01-10.html

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* original and *(b)* current estimated cost is of establishment of the e-Borders programme. [310321]

Mr. Woolas: The original planned expenditure for e-Borders from award of the contract to Trusted Borders in November 2007 through to November 2017 was £1.2 billion.

The current forecast of expenditure for this period, including contingency, is £1.2 billion.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Oral Statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32, on aviation and border security, what proportion of the e-Borders programme is complete. [310337]

Mr. Woolas: We estimate that e-Borders is currently tracking 45 to 50 per cent. of all passenger movements into and out of the UK, which equates to approximately 100 million passengers annually. This figure is pending formal verification by statisticians.

e-Borders aims to track 95 per cent. of all passenger and crew movements by December 2010. This will represent all major commercial traffic. The remaining 5 per cent. represents private aviation and the small craft category. e-Borders expect that there will be 100 per cent. coverage by March 2014.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32, on aviation and border security, whether his consideration of additional targeted passenger profiling includes non-behavioural profiling. [310338]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

We are examining carefully whether targeted passenger profiling might help to enhance airport security. We will be considering all the issues involved, mindful of civil liberties concerns, aware that identity-based profiling has its limitations, but conscious of our overriding obligations to protect people's life and liberty.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [309931]

Mr. Woolas: The forecast for Home Office media spend for 2009-10 is as follows:

	£
TV airtime	4,457,477
Radio airtime	1,121,206
Print (Newspapers and Magazines)	1,294,174
Online	1,705,195

The activity that has been scheduled may still be subject to alteration and the total for each media may change. Activity that has not yet been planned and booked is not included as specific media spend will not yet be known.

The figures quoted are for net media costs and do not include production costs or fees.

The projected Home Office media spend on television, radio, print and online advertising for 2010-11 cannot be forecast as budgets have yet to be allocated.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [304000]

Mr. Woolas: The Department owns one residential property which has been empty for more than six months. Agents have been appointed to dispose of it.

Departmental Data Protection

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff of his Department and its agencies have been disciplined for inappropriate use of information obtained from *(a)* a police database, *(b)* an immigration database and *(c)* an identity card or passport database in each of the last 10 years. [310128]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is set out in the following tables.

Home Office headquarters staff that have been disciplined for inappropriate use of information obtained from a police, immigration database and identity card or passport database[1]

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*	*Total*
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0

[1] No central records exist prior to January 2005.

National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) staff that have been disciplined for inappropriate use of information obtained from police databases[1]

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*	*Total*
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0

[1] The NPIA has had responsibility for national police databases since 1 April 2007. No information is available prior to 2007.

UK Border Agency (UKBA) staff that have been disciplined for inappropriate use of information obtained from an immigration database and/or an identity card or passport database[1]

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*	*Total*
2005	3	0	3
2006	0	0	0
2007	3	0	3
2008	2	1	3
2009	2	0	2
Total	10	1	11

[1] UKBA have no information available prior to 2005.

Identity and Passport Service (IPS) staff that have been disciplined for inappropriate use of information obtained from identity card or passport database

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*	*Total*
1999 to 2004	0	0	0
2005-06	1	1	2
2006-07	0	0	0
2007-08	1	1	2
2008-09	0	0	0
Total	2	2	4

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) staff that have been disciplined for inappropriate use of information obtained from police databases

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*	*Total*
19[illegible] to 2009	0	0	0

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [301387]

Mr. Woolas: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on *(a)* consultants, *(b)* advertising, *(c)* publishing, *(d)* public relations, *(e)* professional training and *(f)* other activities in respect of each campaign (i) operated by his Department and (ii) commissioned from other organisations in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09; and which organisation operated each campaign not operated by his Department. [308818]

Alan Johnson: The following table summarises the spend of the Home Office on advertising and public relations broken down by individual campaign area for the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Campaign	Advertising	£ PR
2005-06		
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	4,123,311	—
Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign	92,204	—
Anti-Social Behaviour	396,475	363,040
Child Protection on the Internet	862,229	—
Clean Up Campaign	39,819	—
Crime Stoppers	82,182	—
Domestic Violence	534,587	—
Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	1,524,701	474,386
Park Mark Car Parks—car crime	94,260	—
Police Specials Recruitment	1,389,166	—
Police recruitment High Potential Development Scheme	—	41,400
Community Support Officers Recruitment		2,380
Rape	66,153	—
Year of the volunteer	—	74,027
Criminal Justice System	—	265,780
Tackling violent crime	—	156,620
Total	9,205,087	1,377,633
2006-07		
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	3,266,192	—
Alcohol Binge drinking	1,975,005	—
Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign	231,713	—
Child Protection on the Internet	46,824	—
Domestic Violence	800,384	—
Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	3,467,021	374,666
Immigration	790,860	—
Knife Amnesty	137,083	—
PCSO Recruitment	1,748,743	—
Rape	280,022	—
Single Non-Emergency Number	780,325	—
Stop and Search	134,501	—
Community Sentences	—	193,181
Police Recruitment High Potential Development Scheme	—	28,716
Police Community Support Officer Recruitment	—	113,511
Respect	—	61,568
Single Non-Emergency Number	—	29,186
Criminal Justice	—	174,473
Total	13,658,673	975,301
2007-08		
Alcohol Harm Reduction	2,900,411	—
Community Safety	866,889	—
Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	898,509	290,584
Immigration	1,973,558	—
Kerb Crawling	218,025	—
Mobile Phone Blocking	190,162	—
Total	7,047,554	290,584
2008-09		
Acquisitive Crime Reduction—Burglary	918,170	—
Alcohol Harm Reduction	2,790,203	—
Justice Seen Justice Done	2,246,390	—
Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	717,397	427,815
Human Trafficking	8,928	—
Immigration—Points Based System	2,453,007	—
Child Sex Offender Review / Violence against Women	—	55,860
Knife crime	917,764	—
Knife crime stakeholder PR	—	358,119
UKBA toolkit	—	118,443
RICU—Research Information Communications Unit	—	5,000
Total	10,051,859	965,237

Notes:

1. There were no costs incurred on consultants for any of the campaigns set out above.
2. There is no central record of Home Office spend on publishing activities. To collate this information would incur disproportionate costs.
3. There were no costs on Professional Training associated with the campaign set out in the table above.
4. There were no costs on "other activities"; the costs given cover the total costs of each campaign. The figures for advertising refer to the cost of media for TV, print, radio, cinema and posters net of VAT for public facing advertising campaigns. They do not include classified recruitment advertising or digital advertising.
5. The Alcohol Harm Reduction and Drugs campaigns are both cross-government campaigns. The figures that have been provided are those billed to the Home Office.

Departmental Sick Leave

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many working days were lost due to *(a)* illness and *(b)* stress of employees in his Department in each of the last three years. [309916]

Mr. Woolas: Sick absence within the Home Office is reported using Cabinet Office standards and definitions, which were introduced with effect from 1 April 2007. Sick absence is defined as the absence of a civil servant due to their illness or injury. No distinction is made on recording systems between "illnesses" and "injuries"; the information provided therefore covers both illnesses and injuries. The data provided for 2006-07 include the Prison Service which was part of the Home Office before machinery of government changes in May 2007.

(a) Total working days lost due to illness/injury of paid civil servants:

Total working days lost

	Number
2006-07	803,653.00
2007-08	264,501.10
2008-09	228,520.63

(b) Absence due to stress is reported within the category "Mental Disorders", in line with Cabinet Office guidance to report absences using the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Classification of Diseases (ICD) version 10. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide consistent information below this group as it covers anxiety, depression, and stress, as well as other more severe mental health conditions.

Total working days lost of paid civil servants due to mental disorders

	Number
2006-07	171,637.39
2007-08	65,410.80
2008-09	24,947.41

Detention Centres: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his assessment is of progress made in improving provision for families with children at immigration removal centres; and how much has been spent on making such improvements in the last 12 months. [310109]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* We take the welfare of children in our care very seriously and are proud of the investment made to improve services at Yarl's Wood over the last couple of years, the main centre for holding families with children. These include:

A dedicated Ofsted inspected school delivering 30 hours per week of tuition by qualified teachers for children aged five-16 years.

A crèche staffed seven days a week from nine-five by appropriately qualified child care professionals for children under school age.

Professional supervision and support for teaching staff, in the form of oversight from the head teacher of another establishment.

Establishment of a softer and more child-focused reception area and further provision of age-appropriate activities such as a bouncy castle, and a library of games and toys for use in the children's rooms.

Relocation of the youth club to a larger room with access to grassed outside play area.

The introduction of a fortnightly children's forum and development of dedicated children's complaints forms.

The provision of a midwife, healthcare visitor, paediatric nurse and child counselling services.

The improvements we have made have been considered and acknowledged by the likes of the Children's Commissioner for England, the Independent Monitoring Board and HM Chief Inspector of Prisons.

At the same time, we have recently conducted an internal review of the services provided [illegible]ther centres where children may be detained. T[illegible]ighted a number of areas where improvements [illegible] made at Tinsley House. A programme of improvement has commenced, and while this is being undertaken, we have taken the decision to reduce the maximum period of stay for families with children from 72 hours to 24 hours.

Services provided for children are funded within the operating contracts for centres, the value of which is commercially confidential. It is therefore not possible to provide a figure on how much has been spent on improvements in the last 12 months.

Entry Clearances

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many time-limited visas of each type have been issued in each year since 1997; [307632]

(2) how many time-limited visas of each type have been issued in each year since 1997. [306002]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The following table shows the number of time limited visas issued to applicants from 2004. Data prior to 2004 are not considered accurate and reliable; therefore they have not been included in the table.

	Endorsement category	*Issued*
2004	EEA family permits	23,877
	Family visit	248,154
	Other non-settlement	95,541
	Other visitor	1,140,775
	Student	201,793
	Transit	62,076
	Work permit	98,320
	Working holiday maker	70,304
	Total	1,940,840
2005	EEA family permits	23,858
	Family visit	331,100
	Other non-settlement	109,656
	Other visitor	1,112,301
	Student	210,399
	Transit	54,905
	Work permit	113,052
	Working holiday maker	58,433
	Total	2,013,704
2006	EEA family permits	25,217
	Family visit	376,377
	Other non-settlement	115,103
	Other visitor	1,202,704
	Student	238,880
	Transit	53,977
	Work permit	123,807
	Working holiday maker	46,138
	Total	2,182,203
2007	EEA family permits	22,743
	Family visit	354,351
	Other non-settlement	120,112
	Other visitor	1,101,832
	PBS tier 1	—
	Student	242,885
	Transit	40,327
	Work permit	96,750
	Working holiday maker	39,392
	Total	2,018,392
2008	EEA family permits	18,083
	Family visit	313,426
	Other non-settlement	112,089
	Other visitor	1,07[illegible],547

	Endorsement category	*Issued*
	PBS tier 1	12,052
	PBS tier 2	90
	PBS tier 5	382
	Student	233,020
	Transit	32,599
	Work permit	78,973
	Working holiday maker	34,467
	Total	1,908,728

Note
Information above is provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to issue his response to the recent consultation on proposed changes to Tier 4 student visa arrangements. [310366]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* The outcome of the review of tier 4 announced by the Prime Minister on 12 November will be announced shortly.

Foreign Workers: Immigration Controls

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will require the Migration Advisory Committee in formulating its advice on the level of immigrant labour needed to complete the *(a)* London Olympics and *(b)* Crossrail construction work to obtain information on whether jobs on these projects are first advertised through Jobcentre Plus. [310657]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* The Government have no plans at present to ask the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) for specific advice relating to the London Olympics or Crossrail.

It is possible that the MAC may review jobs relating to these projects independently as part of their regular work on the Shortage Occupation List.

Unless a job is on the Shortage Occupation List, it must be advertised through Jobcentre Plus before it can be offered to a migrant worker under tier 2.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* found guilty of employing illegal immigrants in each month of (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [306001]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The "prosecution" of an individual employer for an offence relating to employing illegal migrant workers formerly occurred through the courts under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996. The prosecution offences in 1996 were replaced by the introduction of civil penalties for employers in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 in February 2008. An individual employer who has received a civil penalty for offences related to illegal working under the 2006 Act does not undergo prosecution through the courts.

Between 29 February 2008 and 30 November 2009 a total of 3,376 Notices of Liability for a Civil Penalty were issued to employers of illegal migrant workers. These data are derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and liable to change.

An employer may still be prosecuted under section 21 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 where it can be established that the employer "knowingly" employed an illegal migrant worker after 29 February 2008.

Data on the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty in 2007 and 2008 of offences relating to employing a person subject to immigration control are published by the Home Office in table 3.4 of the Control of Immigration.

Statistics United Kingdom 2008, which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Data for 2008 remain provisional and subject to change. Data for 2009 will be published in summer 2010.

The following tables from the Ministry of Justice provide a monthly breakdown of the overall figures set out in the above publication.

	2007[2, 3, 4]		*2008*[1, 2, 3, 4]	
	Proceeded against in magistrates court	*Found guilty in all courts*	*Proceeded against in magistrates courts*	*Found guilty in all courts*
January	0	0	5	3
February	4	4	12	6
March	4	4	4	2
April	3	1	5	7
May	2	1	2	1
June	1	1	5	3
July	4	3	4	2
August	1	0	6	7
September	7	5	7	6
October	3	2	8	4
November	3	2	7	5
December	7	2	2	0

	2007[2, 3, 4]		2008[1, 2, 3, 4]	
	Proceeded against in magistrates court	*Found guilty in all courts*	*Proceeded against in magistrates courts*	*Found guilty in all courts*
Total	39	25	67	40

[1] Provisional.

[2] Includes offences of employing a person aged 16 and above and employing a person knowingly that they are an adult subject to immigration control.

[3] These are data on the principal immigration offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitation are taken into account when those data are used.

Immigrants: Detainees

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of people in each age group held in immigration detention centres have been *(a)* released and *(b)* deported in each year since 1997. [308447]

Alan Johnson: Tables A and B show the number of persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by age and reason for leaving detention for the year 2005 and the period January to September 2006. These figures are not available prior to or after this period.

However, in August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include management information on the total number of persons leaving detention and the number of children leaving detention. The information is now available for Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2009. Table C shows these figures, they will continue to be published quarterly in the future; however data for earlier years will remain unavailable.

Table D shows persons removed from the United Kingdom on leaving detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age for 2005, January to September 2006, 2007, 2008 and January to September 2009. Data for earlier years are unavailable.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Table A: Persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, 2005, by age[1] and reason for leaving detention[2, 3] (excluding Oakington and Harwich[4])

Number of individuals

					Children									
	Total persons[5]	*of whom:*	*Adults[1] 18 yrs+*		*Under 5 yrs*		*5-11 yrs*		*12-16 yrs*		*17 yrs*		*Total children*	
Reason for leaving detention	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Removed from the UK	20,420	70	19,185	70	555	70	355	61	265	67	55	67	1,230	66
Granted leave to enter/remain[6]	130	0	130	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	..	0
Granted temporary admission/release[7]	7,290	25	6,715	25	225	28	210	36	120	30	25	31	575	31
Bailed[8]	1,370	5	1,320	5	20	2	20	3	10	3	*	1	50	3
Other	5	0	5	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0
Total persons leaving detention	29,210		27,350		795		585		395		85		1,860	

Table B: Persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, January to September 2006, by age[1] and reason for leaving detention[2, 3] (excluding Oakington and Harwich[4])

Number of individuals

					Children									
	Total persons[5]	*of whom:*	*Adults[1] 18 yrs+*		*Under 5 yrs*		*5-11 yrs*		*12-16 yrs*		*17 yrs*		*Total children*	
Reason for leaving detention	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Removed from the UK	14,360	68	13,625	69	315	60	250	59	135	59	35	67	735	60
Granted leave to enter/remain[6]	110	1	110	1	*	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	*	0

Table B: Persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, January to September 2006, by age[1] and reason for leaving detention[2,3] (excluding Oakington and Harwich[4])

Number of individuals

					Children									
	Total persons[5]	*of whom:*	*Adults[1] 18 yrs+*		*Under 5 yrs*		*5-11 yrs*		*12-16 yrs*		*17 yrs*		*Total children*	
Reason for leaving detention	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Granted temporary admission/release[7]	5,470	26	5,000	25	205	39	160	38	85	38	15	31	470	38
Bailed[8]	1,105	5	1,080	5	10	2	10	3	5	3	*	2	25	2
Other	*	9	*	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0
Total persons leaving detention	21,045		19,810		530		425		230		50		1,235	

[1] Recorded age at the end of their period of detention. Figures for children will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

[2] Numbers rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Percentages rounded to the nearest per cent. and may therefore not sum to 100. Figures exclude persons recorded as leaving detention from police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal/release and their children.

[3] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown.

[4] Oakington Reception Centre and Harwich were not controlled by the same part of UKBA as the removal/detention centres in the UKBA estate before 2007. Oakington and Harwich data on the database were incomplete so they were excluded prior to 2007.

[5] Figures include dependants and those detained in family groups.

[6] Short or long term stay in the UK has been granted.

[7] Decision on case has not been made.

[8] Detainee has applied for, and been granted, bail at a bail hearing.

Table C: Persons leaving detention in the United Kingdom held solely under Immigration Act powers, January to September 2009[1,2,3,4]

Number of individuals

Period	*Total persons[4] of whom:*	*Children[5]*
Quarter 1[6]	6,765	250
Quarter 2	6,910	225
Quarter 3	6,975	305

[1] These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change. Excludes persons detained in Harwich short term holding facility, police cells and Prison Service establishments.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five.

[3] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, if the person has left detention then been detained again and left once more in the time period shown.

[4] Figures include dependants and those detained in family groups.

[5] Recorded age at the end of their period of detention. Figures for children will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

[6] Figures include those leaving detention between 28 and 31 December 2008.

Table D: Persons removed from the United Kingdom on leaving detention[1] held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age[2,3,4,5], for 2005, January to September 2006, 2007, 2008 and January to September 2009

Number of individuals

			Children				
Period	*Total persons, of whom:*	*Adults[2] 18 yrs+*	*Under 5 yrs*	*5-11 yrs*	*12-16 yrs*	*17 yrs*	*Total children*
2005[6]	20,420	19,185	555	355	265	55	1,230
2006 Jan to Sep[6]	14,360	13,625	315	250	135	35	735
2007[7]	16,120	15,490	300	195	110	25	630
2008[8]	16,310	15,695	280	195	125	15	615
2009 Q1[8]	4,035	3,925	55	40	10	5	110
2009 Q2[8]	3,815	3,720	55	30	15	—	100
2009 Q3[8]	4,085	3,930	65	55	25	5	150

[1] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention for the purpose of a removal, but who has subsequently been re-detained.

[2] Recorded age at the end of their period of detention. Figures for children will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as leaving detention from police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal and their dependants.

[4] Not necessarily removed in the same year as leaving detention.

[5] Figures include dependants and those detained in family groups.

[6] Oakington Reception Centre and Harwich were not controlled by the same part of UKBA as the removal/detention centres in the UKBA estate before 2007. Oakington and Harwich data on the database were incomplete so they were excluded prior to 2007.

[7] Figures exclude persons recorded as leaving detention from Harwich short term holding facility.

[8] Provisional figures.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each age group have been held in immigration removal centres on more than one occasion in each year since 1997; and on how many occasions such people were held in a removal centre. [308777]

Alan Johnson: Information on persons held on more than one occasion in each year and on how many occasions is not held centrally and would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

However, in August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include management information on persons entering detention, total number of persons leaving detention and the number of families with children held in detention. This information is available by age (to separately identify children), and will be published quarterly in the future; however data for earlier years will remain unavailable.

Information on the number of adults and children under the age of 18 entering detention solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1-Q3 2009 by age and country of nationality is available in:

Q1 and Q2 2009

Table 8a and 8b of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209.pdf

Tables G and H of the supplementary tables:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209supp.xls

Q3 2009

Table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309.pdf

Table H of the supplementary tables:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309supp.xls

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in West Chelmsford constituency who are awaiting a decision on an application for leave to remain in the UK; and what estimate he has made of the number of people in West Chelmsford constituency who made an application for leave to remain in the UK in the last 12 months. [310737]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Passports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts relating to biometric passports his Department plans to let; when he expects each such contract to be put out to tender; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such contract. [310384]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* The Home Department has no current plans to let any further contracts in relation to the design and/or production of biometric passports. Several support arrangements that will facilitate the delivery of biometric passport books are either under consideration or in the early stages of the tender process.

Procurement activity in the form of a request for expressions of interest for the provision of front office services has recently begun. It is not possible to provide details of the potential value of this arrangement at this time as this may prejudice the Department's commercial position during the tendering process.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the cost of including fingerprint data in passports in each year from 2010-11 to 2018-19. [310386]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* It is intended that passports incorporating fingerprints will be introduced from 2012 onwards and applicants for such passports will be enrolled on the National Identity Register. From that point, common business processes and technology infrastructure will be used to register applicants on the National Identity Register and issue them with an identity card and/or a passport.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Identity and Passport Service has spent in each month since October 2006; how many passports were issued in each such month; and how much revenue accrued in fees for such passports in each such month. [310387]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* The following table outlines passport revenue, total expenditure for the Agency and volumes of passports issued for Identity and Passport Service from October 2006 to September 2009:

	Passport revenue (£)	*Expenditure (£)*	*Passports issued (Number)*
October 2006 to March 2007	162,620,052	159,661,963	2,547,467
April 2007 to March 2008	375,681,000	430,098,000	5,900,000
April 2008 to March 2009	366,289,000	468,492,000	5,225,115
April 2009 to September 2009	198,889,236	241,108,460	2,960,654

Expenditure for the Agency includes that incurred for Passport, Home Office funded and GRO activities, a breakdown for which can be obtained in the segmental reporting note of the Annual Report and Accounts for respective years.

Passports: Biometrics

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of whether biometric information in the UK passport complies with *(a)* International Civil Aviation Organisation standards, *(b)* American visa waiver standards and *(c)* Schengen standards. [310656]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* The UK passport contains a facial biometric, which complies with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards for the inclusion of globally interoperable biometrics in travel documents. The UK passport also meets the requirements for the US Visa Waiver programme. As the UK is not a member of Schengen, the UK passport is not required to meet Schengen standards for passports. However the inclusion of a facial biometric in the UK passport is consistent with the EU Passport

Regulation (EC 2252/2004) by which Schengen states are bound. The UK plans to implement fingerprint biometrics in passports from 2012.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of Essex Police Authority in each of the last two years. [305836]

Mr. Hanson: Essex police authority has maximum flexibility to make the best possible use of their resources. According to the published statements of account of Essex police authority, the corporate and democratic core line lists the costs in the last two years as:

	£ million
2007-08	1.562
2008-09	1.766

Police: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were based in Nottingham North constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the last year for which information is available. [309301]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency. Nottingham, North constituency is in the 'City of Nottingham' basic command unit (BCU) (area C). Data for police officers by BCU for Nottinghamshire were first available as at 31 March 2003.

There were 821 police officers in 'City of Nottingham' BCU as at 31 March 2003 and 783 police officers as at 31 March 2009.

Police: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in the number of full-time police officers in Preston has been since 1997. [310996]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel statistics are collected at police force level on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis. A breakdown below police force level to the level of basic command unit level (BCU) has been collected only since 2002-03. Preston falls within the BCU of Lancashire Central, where there were 13 less FTE officers in 2009 than in 2003, a fall of 3.4 per cent. Overall figures for Lancashire constabulary show an increase of 406 FTE officers or 12.5 per cent. since 1997.

Figures are as at 31 March in each given year. Figures at BCU level include officers on career break or maternity/paternity leave. Figures for Lancashire constabulary exclude these in order to provide a like-for-like comparison with 1997. Further breakdown is available in the annual "Police Service Strength" publication available on the Home Office website and the Library of the House.

Thames Valley Police: Manpower

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers Thames Valley Police have employed in each year since 2005. [311250]

Mr. Hanson: The available data can be seen in the following table.

These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer strength (FTE)[1, 2] for Thames Valley as at 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2009

	Number
2005	4,189
2006	4,288
2007	4,260
2008	4,186
2009	4,317

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Figures include officers on career break or maternity/paternity leave.

Vetting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department provides to employers in receipt of information from enhanced Criminal Record Bureau checks on assessment of the nature of the data provided. [311137]

Meg Hillier: There are a number of published guidelines issued to organisations undertaking Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks, all of which are available on the CRB website at:

www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk

The CRB regularly provide advice and guidance to registered organisations relating to best practice through its customer newsletter and the website.

The CRB advises organisations that certificates should be kept securely, in lockable, non-portable, storage containers with access strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

It is a requirement of the CRB's code of practice that all registered organisations must treat applicants who have a criminal record fairly and do not discriminate because of a conviction or other information revealed. Organisations are also advised not to make their recruitment decision solely on the contents of a certificate.

The CRB obliges registered organisations to have a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders' a copy of which can be given to applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.

Visas: Tourism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research his Department has evaluated on the economic effects of the cost of tourist visas on the tourist industry. [310296]

Mr. Woolas: In July 2008 research was carried out to see if a direct link between application fees for short term visit visas and demand could be identified. This was jointly funded by the UK Border Agency, DCMS and Tourism Alliance. Research concluded that in general there is no link between application fees for short term visit visas and demand.

The UK Border Agency also ran two piloted schemes to see if a lower visit visa fee would stimulate demand. From March to September 2007 the pilot was for travellers from China applying to enter the UK on the Approved Destination Status (ADS) scheme. From December 2008 to April 2009 the pilot was carried out in India for visitors on an organised tour with a Trusted Partner (TP) travel agent. The pilot schemes demonstrated that visa cost is not the single most important driver to encouraging applications.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* name, *(b)* cost and *(c)* sponsoring Department was of each advertising campaign supported by the Central Office of Information during 2008-09. [309843]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010:

Re: COI Advertising Spend 2008/9

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI advertising spend in 2008/9 (309843).

The information requested is given in the table which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

It should however be noted that this reflects only the expenditure that has passed through COI and not necessarily the total cost for the campaign.

Civil Servants: Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will publish the travel guidelines issued to *(a)* permanent secretaries, *(b)* senior civil servants and *(c)* other civil servants. [311060]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office does not issue service-wide travel guidelines.

The Civil Service Management Code provides a central framework that Departments must adhere to when setting up their policies. However, as this is a delegated area, Departments are responsible for issuing and operating their own guidelines in relation to travel.

The Civil Service Management Code is available in its entirety, with chapter 8, section 8.2 setting out the central framework in relation to travel, at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/csmc/index.aspx

Deaths: Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths where *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* the misuse of drugs was the primary cause there were in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Hemel Hempstead constituency in the last five years. [311028]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Pennick, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths where *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* the misuse of drugs was the primary cause there were in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Hemel Hempstead constituency in the last five years. (311028)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where *(a)* the underlying cause of death was alcohol-related (Table 1) and *(b)* the underlying cause of death was drug poisoning, where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate (Table 2), in England and Wales, and Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, for 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of alcohol-related deaths[1], England and Wales[2] and Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[3], 2004-08[4]

		Deaths (persons)
	England and Wales	*Hemel Hempstead*
2004	6,488	7
2005	6,627	11
2006	6,964	15
2007	7,042	9
2008	7,344	8

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in Box 1

[2] Figures for England arid Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths from drug misuse[1, 2], England and Wales[3] and Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[4], 2004-08[5]

		Deaths (persons)
	England and Wales	*Hemel Hempstead*
2004	1,495	*
2005	1,608	3
2006	1,573	*
2007	1,604	*
2008	1,738	*

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in Box 2) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (prior to the Amendment order 2009) was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Small numbers (those under three) have been suppressed, so potentially identifiable data is not revealed. Suppressed numbers are indicated by the symbol *. Details of the ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics are published on the ONS website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads_theme_health/ConfidentialityBirth&Death.pdf

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

ICD-10 code(s)	*Description*
F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
G31.2	Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol
G62.1	Alcoholic polyneuropathy
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K29.2	Alcoholic gastritis
K70	Alcoholic liver disease
K73	Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5) K86.0	Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

ICD-10 code(s)	*Description*
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
X65	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Y15	Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent

Box 2. Drug-related poisoning deaths—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

ICD-10 code(s)	*Description*
F11-F16, F18, F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Deaths: Obesity

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people between *(a)* 35 and 45, *(b)* 46 and 55 and *(c)* 56 and 65 years old died of diseases related to obesity in (i) England, (ii) East Sussex and (iii) Lewes constituency in each year since 2000. [311168]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people between (a) 35 and 45, (b) 46 and 55 and (c) 56 and 65 years old died of diseases related to obesity in (i) England, (ii) East Sussex and (iii) Lewes constituency in each year since 2000. (311168)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where obesity was the underlying cause of death (Table J), and where obesity was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor (Table 2), for persons aged between (a) 35 and 45 years, (b) 46 and 55 years and (c) 56 and 65 years, in (i) England, (ii) East Sussex and (iii) Lewes constituency, for the years 2000 to 2008 (the latest year available).

It is not possible to identify all deaths 'related' to obesity. For example, obesity may play an important role in deaths due to heart disease or diabetes, but it is rarely recorded on the death certificate. The figures presented in Tables 1 and 2 are therefore likely to underestimate the actual number of deaths in which obesity is involved.

Table 1: Number of deaths where obesity was the underlying cause of death[1] by age group,[2] England[3], East Sussex and Lewes constituency,[4] 2000-08[5]

Deaths (persons)

	England			*East Sussex*			*Lewes*		
	35-45	*46-55*	*56-65*	*35-45*	*46-55*	*56-65*	*35-45*	*46-55*	*56-65*
2000	28	25	35	0	0	2	0	0	0
2001	25	38	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	34	40	35	1	0	1	0	0	0
2003	33	47	54	1	0	0	0	0	0
2004	31	40	65	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	29	51	58	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	36	53	63	0	0	4	0	0	0
2007	30	60	49	0	0	1	0	0	0
2008	48	70	74	0	1	1	0	0	1

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 278.0 (Obesity) for the year 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (Obesity) for 2001 onwards.

[2] There are 11 years within age group (a) and 10 years within age groups (b) and (c), so the figures are not completely comparable.

[3] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where obesity was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate[1] by age group,[2] England[3] East Sussex and Lewes costiuency,[4] 2000-08[5]

Deaths (persons)

	England			*East Sussex*			*Lewes*		
	35-45	*46-55*	*56-65*	*35-45*	*46-55*	*56-65*	*35-45*	*46-55*	*56-65*
2000	75	121	162	0	0	3	0	0	0
2001	71	141	146	0	1	0	0	0	0
2002	72	129	178	1	3	3	0	1	1
2003	96	162	207	1	1	0	0	1	0
2004	102	154	241	0	1	2	0	0	0
2005	101	155	276	1	1	2	0	0	0
2006	113	184	285	0	0	5	0	0	1
2007	117	222	316	0	2	2	0	0	0
2008	129	257	371	0	4	4	0	0	1

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 278.0 (Obesity) for the year 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (Obesity) for 2001 onwards. Figures are included where obesity was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor.

[2] There are 11 years within age group (a) and 10 years within age groups (b) and (c), so the figures are not completely comparable.

[3] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what pay band her Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307572]

Angela E. Smith: The chief information officer for the Cabinet Office is employed at senior civil service pay band 2. The incumbent is also Director of the Government IT Profession.

The current incumbent is on a fixed term contract and the budget for which the incumbent is responsible for 2009-10 is £12.123 million.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the results of her Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [311507]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office will publish the October 2009 people survey results on our website in February 2010. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier of the Cabinet Office October 2009 people survey was ORC International which was procured by the Department to deliver the first cross-civil service people survey. The people survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the Cabinet Office survey will be £30,550.

By procuring a single supplier for people surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Dr. Fox: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the scale of allowance is for members of the Iraq Inquiry. [305777]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 429-30W.

Manufacturing Industries: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of people employed in manufacturing in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* Stroud constituency in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) the latest year for which figures are available. [310984]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number and proportion of people employed in manufacturing in (a) the UK, (b) Gloucestershire and (c) Stroud constituency in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) the latest year for which figures are available. (310984)

Table 1 shows the number of employees in the manufacturing sector for the United Kingdom. Table 2 shows the number of employees in the manufacturing sector at the regional level. Figures for both tables are for the number of employees and exclude self employed. At a regional level figures are unavailable for 1980 and 1990 and so estimates for the nearest available period have been provided.

Table 1: Number and proportion of employees in the manufacturing sector in the United Kingdom

Period	*Employees (thousand)*	*Proportion of people employed in the manufacturing sector (percentage)*
1980	6,209	26.0
1990	4,664	19.2
2000	3,886	15.0
2008	2,835	10.5

Note:

Figures are based on a quarterly series. 1980, 1990, 2000 are based on quarter 4, 2008 is based on quarter 3. This is consistent with the annual figures in table 2.

Source:

Workforce jobs

Table 2: Number and proportion of employees in the manufacturing sector in Gloucestershire and Stroud constituency

	Gloucestershire		*Stroud constituency*	
Period	*Employees (thousand)*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Employees (thousand)*	*Proportion (percentage)*
1981[1]	65.5	32.7	n/a	n/a
1991[2]	49.1	24.8	9.4	30.5
2000[3]	48.2	20.3	8.8	25.1
2008[3]	37.3	14.8	9.2	22.3

[1] Figures are from the Census of employment based on SIC(68).

[2] Figures are from the Annual Census of Employment.

[3] Figures are from the Annual Business Inquiry. Estimates from the Annual Business Inquiry for 2000 and 2008 are on different bases. An assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees for the manufacturing sector for GB was increased by 8,000 or 0.3 per cent. Direct comparisons of employee estimates over these different periods and surveys should be treated with caution.

Married People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many adults were living in marriage in each year since 1980; and if she will make a statement. [310670]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many adults were living in marriage in each year since 1980. (310670)

The attached table shows the married population aged 16 and over, resident in Great Britain, for the years 1981, 1986 and annually from 1991 to 2008. Estimates of the married population are not available for all years in the 1980s.

These figures are based on the mid-year population estimates and mid-2008 is the latest year for which data are available. They relate to Great Britain rather than the United Kingdom because population estimates by marital status are not available for Northern Ireland.

Mid-year married population aged 16 and over, resident in Great Britain

	Married persons (thousand) aged 16+
1980	—
1981[1]	26,934
1982	—
1983	—
1984	—
1985	—
1986	26,249
1987	—
1988	—
1989	—
1990	—
1991	25,799
1992	25,645
1993	25,484
1994	25,326
1995	25,156
1996	24,993
1997	24,817
1998	24,668
1999	24,555
2000	24,466
2001	24,425
2002	24,301
2003	24,177
2004	24,060
2005	23,991
2006	23,886
2007	23,797
2008	23,740

[1] Scottish data for 1981 is taken from the 1981 Census and refers to the married population on 5 April.

Sources:

Office for National Statistics (ONS) and

General Register Office for Scotland (GROS)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many married couples *(a)* are both over the age of 65, *(b)* are both in work, *(c)* are living apart, *(d)* have no children and *(e)* have one or more children under the age of five; and if she will make a statement. [310671][1]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many married couples (a) are both over the age of 65, (b) are both in work, (c) are living apart, (d) have no children and (e) have one or more children under the age of five; and if she will make a statement. (310671)

The latest, available information requested is given in the table attached. The figures are from ONS's Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets for the period January to December 2008. Information on the number of couples living apart is not collected and is therefore not presented.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples could give different results.

Table: 1 Number of married couples[1] by various characteristics, United Kingdom, January to December 2008

	Number of people (thousand)
Number of married couples	12,170
of whom	
both are over the age of 65	2,060
both are in employment	5,270
have no children	6,040
have one or more children under the age of five	1,730

[1] Excludes cohabiting and same sex couples.

Source:

APS household datasets (ONS).

Ministers: Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will publish the travel guidelines issued to Ministers in respect of *(a)* air, *(b)* rail and *(c)* car journeys. [311059]

Tessa Jowell: Section 10 of the "Ministerial Code" provides guidance to Ministers on travel arrangements.

New Businesses: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses have started up in Preston since 1997. [311130]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses have started up in Preston since 1997 (311130).

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on business births for Preston district.

Counts of births of enterprises for 2002 to 2008

	Preston district
2002	565
2003	665
2004	785
2005	785
2006	600
2007	670
2008	635

Official Residences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many residential flats there are in the Admiralty House complex; how many are designated as ministerial residences; and which Ministers have had use of such flats as residences in each of the last three years. [311427]

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[1] *[Official Report, 15 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 15-16MC.]*

Tessa Jowell: There are three residential flats in Admiralty House which have, under successive administrations, been occupied by Ministers.

On the issue of occupancy over the past three years I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 713W.

Unemployed: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of 18 to 24 year olds in England are unemployed under International Labour Organisation definitions but not in full-time education have *(a)* no qualification, *(b)* below Level 2 qualifications, *(c)* Level 2 as their highest qualification, *(d)* Level 3 as their highest qualification and *(e)* Level 4+ as their highest qualification. [310550]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of 18 to 24 year olds in England are unemployed under International Labour Organisation definitions but not in full-time education have (a) no qualification, (b) below Level 2 qualifications, (c) Level 2 as their highest qualification, (d) Level 3 as their highest qualification and (e) Level 4+ as their highest qualification. 310550.

The table attached provides the information requested.

Estimates of unemployment are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention, people are classed as unemployed if they are: without a job, want a job, and have actively sought work in the last four weeks; or, out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

The estimates in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently they are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployment of 18 to 24 year olds in England by highest qualification held: Three month periods ending September 2009: England, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and per cent

National qualification framework (NQF)	*Total economically active*	*Unemployed and not in full-time education*	*Rate*[1]
No qualifications	120	****40	33
Below NQF Level 2	522	***121	23
NQF Level 2	761	***119	16
NQF Level 3	1,044	***88	8
NQF Level 4 and above	780	***124	16
Trade apprenticeships or other qualification	262	****43	16
Total[2]	3,568	**551	15

[1] The number of 18 to 24-year-olds in England who are unemployed and not in full-time education divided by the economically active population of 18 to 24-year-olds in England, in accordance with ILO definition.

[2] Includes those that did not state their highest qualification.

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent, we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* $0 \le CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise

** $5 \le CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** $10 \le CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable

**** $CV \ge 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Unemployment: Older Workers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people over 50 years old in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [311349]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people over 50 years old in (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) the North East and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency are on jobseeker's allowance. 311349.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of people aged 50 years and over, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the UK, England, the North East and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland for November 2009, the latest date for which data is available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of people aged 50 years and over claiming jobseeker's allowance

	Number
United Kingdom	239,545
England	201,675
North East	12,785
Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland	425

Note:

Data rounded to nearest five.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Unemployment: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of unemployment has been in Preston in each year since 1997. [311018]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of unemployment has been in Preston in each year since 1997. (311018)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age band and geography are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for the Preston constituency for November 2009 and November of each year since 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons resident in Preston parliamentary constituency claiming jobseeker's allowance

As at November each year	*Number of claimants*
1997	2,831
1998	2,530
1999	2,351
2000	2,106
2001	1,920
2002	1,810
2003	1,744
2004	1,710
2005	1,884
2006	1,914
2007	1,811
2008	2,179
2009	3,047

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years resident in *(a)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* West Chelmsford constituency had been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last six months; [310739]

(2) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years resident in *(a)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* West Chelmsford constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) each of the last six months for which figures are available. [310710]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 years resident in (a) Chelmsford local authority area and (b) West Chelmsford constituency had been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last six months; and how many people aged between 16 and 24 years resident in (a) Chelmsford local authority area and (b) West Chelmsford constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) each of the last six months for which figures are available. (310739 & 310710)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age bands and geographies are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons, aged 16 to 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, in the requested geographies, for (a) over 6 months and (b) over 12 months in November 2009 and the previous 5 months. Table 2 contains the number of persons aged 16 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the requested geographies for (a) May 1997 and (b) November 2009 and the previous 5 months.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance in Chelmsford local authority and West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency for over six months and 12 months

	Chelmsford		*West Chelmsford*	
	Claiming over six months	*Claiming over 12 months*	*Claiming over six months*	*Claiming over 12 months*
June 2009	155	10	115	5
July 2009	145	10	105	10
August 2009	170	10	120	10
September 2009	150	10	110	10
October 2009	140	10	105	10
November 2009	125	10	95	10

Notes:
1. Data has been rounded to nearest five.
2. People claiming for over 12 months are included in the counts of people claiming for over six months.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 2: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance in Chelmsford local authority and West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency

	Chelmsford	*West Chelmsford*
May 1997	565	385
June 2009	800	560
July 2009	845	590

Table 2: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance in Chelmsford local authority and West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency

	Chelmsford	West Chelmsford
August 2009	900	630
September 2009	870	610
October 2009	850	610
November 2009	800	555

Note:
Data has been rounded to nearest five.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments were made in each postcode area *(a)* between 1 November 2008 and 31 March 2009 and *(b)* since 1 November 2009. [310828]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has plans to *(a)* increase the level of and *(b)* extend the eligibility criteria for the cold weather payment. [310829]

Helen Goodman: We have no current plans to increase the level of cold weather payments or extend the eligibility criteria.

Cold weather payments were increased to £25.00, from £8.50, for winter 2008-09 and kept at that level for 2009-10. This helped approximately 4.0 million people in homes across Great Britain. In all £210 million was spent in 2008-09 and 8.4 million payments were made (some received more than one payment). For this current winter we have already committed approximately £261 million at 12 January 2010.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information is contained in the notification of a cold weather payment sent to each recipient of the payment. [311358]

Helen Goodman: The cold weather payment notifications from the Pension Service and Jobcentre Plus contain common information relating to the amount, how it will be paid, the weather conditions that apply and the right of appeal.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official report*, column 651W, on cold weather payments, if she will bring forward proposals to enable wind chill factors to be taken into account in determining eligibility for cold weather payments. [311387]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1109W, to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael).

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in her Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in each year. [302781]

Jim Knight: There are two pay-related employee reward schemes operating in the Department for Work and Pensions. They comprise end of year non-consolidated performance pay and in-year special awards.

End of year non-consolidated performance pay

DWP employees below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual non-consolidated performance payment if they attain a "top", "higher" or "majority" rating under the annual performance and development system. The actual payment awarded is determined by the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service, end of year non-consolidated performance pay is determined by the relevant departmental Pay Committee, in line with recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The total payments made in respect of the last three financial years were as follows. (Figures for 2009-10 already include all non-consolidated performance payments to be made in the current year.)

Financial year	Total number of recipients	Total paid (£ million)	Average payment (£)
2007-08	111,943	36.61	327.04
2008-09	107,726	23.32	216.48
2009-10	109,334	21.81	199.48

Special awards

Individuals may be awarded a special award either as cash or retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year, to recognise exceptional achievements beyond what would normally be expected.

The total number of awards made was as follows (a small number of individuals may have received more than one cash or voucher payment during the year):

Cash payments

Financial year	Total number of recipients	Total paid (£ million)	Average payment (£)
2007-08	11,250	2.70	240
2008-09	14,612	3.04	208
2009-10[1]	5,079	0.91	179

[1] April 2009 to August 2009.

Voucher payments

Financial year	*Total number of vouchers issued*	*Total cost (£ million)*	*Value*
2007-08	31,237	1.77	Between £25 and £50
2008-09	47,121	2.02	Between £25 and £50
2009-10[1]	17,918	0.95	Between £25 and £50

[1] April 2009 to August 2009.

Regrettably an error has been identified in the reply that I gave to question 290416 from the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 56-58W. The reply said the number of vouchers issued in 2008-09 was 28,869 and the cost was £1.03 million, whereas the correct information is 47,121 vouchers issued at a cost of £2.02 million. I have written to the hon. Member for Putney to apologise for this inadvertent error.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the number of Jobcentre Plus customers who have had fortnightly jobsearch reviews shorter than their allocated time in the latest period for which figures are available; [309333]

(2) what guidance her Department has issued on the time an adviser should spend with jobseekers at their fortnightly jobsearch review; [309334]

(3) what information her Department collects on the time spent by staff with Jobcentre Plus customers during their fortnightly jobsearch review; [309335]

(4) what estimate she has made of the average time taken to perform a fortnightly jobsearch in each month of 2009. [309349]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what estimate she has made of the number of Jobcentre Plus customers who have had fortnightly jobsearch reviews shorter than their allocated time in the latest period for which figures are available; what guidance her Department has issued on the time an adviser should spend with jobseekers at their fortnightly jobsearch review; what information her Department collects on the time spent by staff with Jobcentre Plus customers during their fortnightly jobsearch review; and what estimate she has made of the average time taken to perform a fortnightly jobsearch in each month of 2009. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The average time allocation for fortnightly jobsearch reviews (at which customers "sign on") is 7.5 minutes, but the actual time taken will vary depending upon individual customer needs. Data on the average length of time actually taken to undertake jobsearch reviews is not collated.

I hope this information is helpful.

Employment: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the level of long-term *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth employment in Preston in each year since 1997. [311073]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the level of long-term (a) adult and (b) youth employment in Preston in each year since 1997. (311073)

Long-term employment is not a concept for which the Office for National Statistics produces statistics.

Jobcentre Plus

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all employers offering jobs to be advertised through Jobcentre Plus are asked whether the job can be offered on a flexible, part-time or jobshare basis. [309978]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question whether all employers offering jobs to be advertised through Jobcentre Plus are asked whether the job can be offered on a flexible, part-time or jobshare basis. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus always asks for details about the hours that are required, including any relevant terms and conditions, though employers are not routinely asked whether the job can be offered on a flexible or jobshare basis. If, however, the employer wishes to include information about jobshare or flexible working this information can be recorded on the vacancy.

Jobcentre Plus also contacts employers about each vacancy once they have been displayed by us for 48 hours. This enables us to discuss the employer's recruitment needs and identify if the employer may be interested in other Jobcentre Plus initiatives as well as identifying if there are other ways which could be considered to help the employer fill their vacancy. This will include the possible options around flexibility, part time working and job share.

Jobcentre Plus is currently looking at options to obtain this type of information from employers as part of its transforming labour market services programme. The programme aims to provide a personal service that helps individuals access sustainable work part of which will be to include details of flexibility and jobshare options where they apply when the employer initially places the vacancy.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed jobseeker's allowance claims there were in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last six months; what the average time taken to process claims in each instance was; and if she will make a statement. [300684]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many unprocessed Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claims there were in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last six months; what the average time taken to process claims in each instance was. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does not process claims at District level but in Benefit Delivery Centres. Therefore the Management Information supplied will be for each Benefit Delivery Centre. I have also provided data at regional level as requested.

Jobcentre Plus gathers information on the volume of unprocessed claims from its internal benefit processing systems. As claims are received in Benefit Delivery Centres they are recorded on this system. The count of these unprocessed claims is a snapshot of which claims have yet to be fully processed to the point a decision is made on entitlement on the last working day of every month. The data provided may also slightly underestimate the volume of claims being processed as some cases could be in transit and/or be waiting to be logged onto the system.

Jobcentre Plus has a target for the average actual clearance time taken to process JSA claims, currently 11.5 days. Current year to date performance, as of November 2009, is 10.0 days. The time is calculated across an average of all the claims cleared in any given month looking at the date the customer first contacted Jobcentre Plus or the customer's first day of unemployment, whichever is the later. The end date is the date a formal decision is made on the claim and a notification is issued to the customer on entitlement.

Information on the number of unprocessed claims and the average time taken to process claims from May 2009 to October 2009 in each Region and Benefit Delivery Centre has been placed in Library.

New Deal Schemes: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women resident in Preston have participated in *(a)* the New Deal for Lone Parents and *(b)* the New Deal for Partners since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [311077]

Helen Goodman: The available information can be found in the following tables.

New Deal for Lone Parents—starters (individuals) caseload: gender (female) by Westminster parliamentary constituency up to August 2009

Preston parliamentary constituency	*Caseloads (female)*
Total	1,960

New Deal for Partners—individuals starting the caseload since April 2004 People starting: gender (female) by Westminster parliamentary constituency up to August 2009

Preston parliamentary constituency	*Caseloads (female)*
Total	20

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS postcode directory and customer's postcode.
3. The New Deal for Lone Parents was introduced in October 1998, latest data is to August 2009.
4. Data for New Deal for Partners is available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999), latest data is available to August 2009.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in poverty there were in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [311777]

Angela Eagle: The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, after housing costs.

Estimates of poverty are published annually in the 'Households Below Average Income' publication. The most recent estimate which can be made is for 2007-08, due to availability of data.

Latest information is provided in the following table:

Number and proportion of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of median household income, after housing costs, in 1997-98 (GB) and 2007-08 (UK)

	Total number of pensioners	*Proportion of pensioners*
1997-98	2,900,000	29
2007-08	2,000,000	18

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 1997-98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through 2001-02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners her Department estimates were in absolute poverty in *(a)* the East Midlands Government Office Region and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [311111]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of poverty are published annually in the Households Below Average Income series. The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. Absolute poverty is referred to as 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices.

A: East midlands Government office region

Latest information for the east midlands Government office region, is based on three year averages and is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income (uprated in line with prices), after housing costs, in the east midlands Government office region, since 1997, information in three year averages

	Number	*Percentage*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	200,000	30
1998-99 to 2000-01	200,000	26
1999-2000 to 2001-02	200,000	22
2000-01 to 2002-03	100,000	19
2001-02 to 2003-04	100,000	15
2002-03 to 2004-05	100,000	12
2003-04 to 2005-06	100,000	10
2004-05 to 2006-07	100,000	11

Table 1: Number and percentage of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income (uprated in line with prices), after housing costs, in the east midlands Government office region, since 1997, information in three year averages

	Number	Percentage
2005-06 to 2007-08	100,000	11

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for regional statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. Small changes in estimates from year to year, particularly at the bottom of the income distribution, may not be significant in view of data uncertainties.
3. Numbers of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

B: England

Latest information for England, again based on three year averages, is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Number and percentage of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income (uprated in line with prices), after housing costs, in England since 1997

	Number	Percentage
1997-98 to 1999-2000	2,400,000	28
1998-99 to 2000-01	2,100,000	25
1999-2000 to 2001-02	1,700,000	20
2000-01 to 2002-03	1,300,000	15
2001-02 to 2003-04	1,100,000	12
2002-03 to 2004-05	900,000	10
2003-04 to 2005-06	800,000	9
2004-05 to 2006-07	800,000	9
2005-06 to 2007-08	800,000	9

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for regional statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. Small changes in estimates from year to year, particularly at the bottom of the income distribution, may not be significant in view of data uncertainties.
3. Numbers of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Social Security Benefits: Publicity

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money her Department *(a)* spent in each year since 2005 and *(b)* expects to spend in each of the next three years to raise public awareness of benefit entitlements. [303400]

Jim Knight: We want everyone to claim all the help they are entitled to but primarily we want people of working age to work rather than claim benefits so our focus is on promotion of in-work benefits. For pension age customers, we promote pension credit and associated benefits such as council tax benefit, housing benefit and winter fuel payments.

The breakdown for direct expenditure on these issues is as follows:

	Pension age benefits	Working age benefits	Breakdown	£
2005-06	3,073,000	—	Pension credit	910,000
			Council tax benefit	743,000
			Winter fuel allowance	1,420,000
2006-07	2,509,000	—	Pension credit	2,040,000
			Winter fuel allowance	469,000
2007-08	2,030,000	12,000	Local housing allowance	12,000
			Pension credit	1,437,000
			Council tax benefit	277,000
			Winter fuel allowance	316,000
2008-09	1,154,000	—	Pension credit	786,000
			Council tax benefit	84,000
			Winter fuel allowance	284,000
2009-10	1,381,000	175,000	Housing/council tax as in-work benefits and overall working age strategy development	175,000
			Pension credit	1,107,000
			Council tax benefit	50,000
			Winter fuel allowance	224,000

Anticipated level of expenditure for 2010-11 is £175,000 on working age benefits and £1,226,000 on pension age benefits.

Budgets are not set as yet for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net additional spend on the basic state pension if it were increased by the rate of increase in average earnings, the retail price index or 2.5 per cent., whichever was the highest, in each of the next five years. [306375]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The information requested is given in the following table:

Additional basic state pension spend from uprating the basic state pension by the higher of earnings, the retail prices index or the 2.5 per cent. underpin, £ billion 2009-10 price terms, net of income related benefits, UK and overseas

	Additional spend
2010-11	0.0
2011-12	0.0
2012-13	0.3
2013-14	0.3
2014-15	0.3

Notes:

1. Baseline projections of expenditure on pensioner benefits used for these costings assume that the basic state pension is increased by earnings from 2012. Prior to 2012, projections assume that the basic state pension is uprated by the greater of RPI or 2.5 per cent.
2. Estimates given are net to baseline, they do not include the gross additional basic state pension spend from implementing the 2007 Pensions Act reforms to the basic state pension from April 2010.
3. During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.
4. In the financial years up to and including 2014-15 Treasury economic assumptions consistent with table B1 of the pre-Budget report 2009 have been used in the above modelling.
5. The costs and savings estimates provided are based on future projections of earnings and price inflation—which are inherently uncertain and subject to change particularly in light of the current economic uncertainty. This is underlined by the fact that the estimated cost of earnings uprating has changed from estimates based on Treasury economic assumptions consistent with Table C1 of the Budget 2009.
6. Estimates are in 2009-10 prices, have been rounded to the nearest £100 million and include UK and overseas claimants.

Source:

DWP calculations

Winter Fuel Payments: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Barnsley, East and Mexborough constituency are in receipt of winter fuel allowance. [310669]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available), 18,700 people received a winter fuel payment in Barnsley, East and Mexborough.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Winter Fuel Payments: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in Preston have received the winter fuel allowance since its introduction. [311078]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payments was not broken down by parliamentary constituency for winters 1997-98 and 1998-99. The information from winter 1999-2000 onwards is in the following table.

Preston constituency

	Payments made
1999-2000	15,375
2000-01	16,830
2001-02	16,735
2002-03	16,570
2003-04	16,520
2004-05	15,970
2005-06	15,940
2006-07	15,900
2007-08	16,110
2008-09	16,200

Notes:

1. Figures up to 2001-02 are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures from 2002-03 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information Directorate 100 per cent. data

Winter Fuel Payments: Walsall

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made by households in *(a)* Aldridge-Brownhills constituency and *(b)* the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council area in each of the last five years. [310787]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payment claims made by households in Aldridge-Brownhills and Walsall metropolitan borough council is not available.

Information about the number of payments made to households in Aldridge-Brownhills and Walsall metropolitan borough council is in the following table. 2008-09 is the latest year for which information is available.

	Aldridge-Brownhills	*Walsall metropolitan borough council*
2004-05	13,935	39,260
2005-06	14,190	39,670
2006-07	14,380	39,870
2007-08	14,700	40,490
2008-09	14,910	40,790

Notes:

1. Figures from 2004-05 are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures from 2005-06 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information Directorate 100 per cent data.

TRANSPORT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with operators of motorway service areas on the installation of automatic plate registration number equipment; and if he will make a statement. [310618]

Chris Mole: Operational issues affecting the management of a service area are the responsibility of the site operator and Government have not been involved in discussions regarding the installation of automatic number plate recognition equipment.

Aviation: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the introduction of additional security measures at UK airports. [310286]

Paul Clark: Department for Transport officials attended a special meeting of the EU's Regulatory Committee for Civil Aviation Security in Brussels on 7 January 2010, at which there was discussion about the current security situation and possible responses to the incident that took place on 25 December 2009. They are keeping in regular touch with senior officials in the European Commission.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of airlines on security training for check-in staff; and whether he plans to introduce requirements for additional security training for such check-in staff. [310290]

Paul Clark: The training of check-in staff is covered by regulations issued by the Department for Transport under the Aviation Security Act 1982. These Regulations impose mandatory training on new check-in staff, and regular refresher training for existing staff.

The UK aviation security training programme is kept under regular review, both through a departmental working group, at which key industry stakeholders are represented, and regular liaison between officials and the industry. No representations have been received seeking additional training for check-in staff and there are currently no plans to introduce any.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of the potential security risks posed by long queues at airports. [310306]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport, together with the police and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provide airport operators with advice on landside measures to mitigate the risk to passengers, prior to being screened at the search comb.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to introduce increased surveillance at airports *(a)* outside and *(b)* inside security screened areas. [310308]

Paul Clark: Robust measures are in place, as a component of the National Aviation Security Programme. These measures are always subject to review, if necessary.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to introduce new security measures at airports outside the security screened area. [310309]

Paul Clark: Robust measures are in place, as a component of the National Aviation Security Programme. These measures are always subject to review, if necessary.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps have been taken to increase the security of airport perimeters. [310310]

Paul Clark: Robust measures are in place, as a component of the National Aviation Security Programme. These measures are always subject to review, if necessary.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Secretary of State's contribution of 5 January 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 42, on terrorism: aviation and border security, whether funds from his Department's budget have been allocated to other countries to assist the improvement of airport security in the last five years. [310311]

Paul Clark: Funds from the Department for Transport's budget have been and continue to be allocated to assist the improvement of aviation security in other countries. The Department has officials who are fully engaged in international and European fora developing and improving aviation security. In addition since 2002 the Department has had a network of five regional aviation security liaison officers (RASLOs) who are tasked to provide advice and assistance on aviation security throughout Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has had discussions with its overseas counterparts on the introduction of body scanners at airports which have services to the UK. [310313]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has held discussions with its counterparts overseas on the introduction of body scanners at airports, including those which have flights to the UK. The most detailed discussions have been with the EU and with the USA.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to his oral statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32, on aviation and border security, what equipment his Department classifies as explosive trace detection equipment. [310342]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport classifies explosive trace detection as a technique/technology that has the capability to detect particulate or vapour of an explosive material.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to prevent suicide bomb attacks on aeroplanes by people prepared to ingest explosives or have them surgically implanted. [310355]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is keeping all potential threats to aviation under review, in close co-operation with European and international partners.

Body Searches: X-rays

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects on health of the use of body scanners that use X-ray technology. [309427]

Paul Clark: Some body scanners are X-ray machines, so a very small dose of radiation is involved. Previous assessments carried out by the Health Protection Agency and St. Bartholomew's Hospital show the risk to be negligible in comparison to background radiation dose received from naturally occurring radiation. Further risk assessments are being obtained for future deployments.

Borders: Personal Records

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received from the airline industry on the e-borders programme. [310285]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport and the Home Office both hold regular stakeholder meetings to facilitate contact between the airline industry and Government on the e-borders programme. These meetings provide a forum for industry representations on all aspects of the e-borders programme.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what monthly indicators are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency to monitor performance in respect of the operation of the Dartford River Crossing. [309419]

Chris Mole: A wide range of performance indicators are measured by the Highways Agency for the operation of the Strategic Road Network which includes the Dartford River Crossing. The Highways Agency's contract with the Dartford Crossing operator (Connect Plus) includes the following four other specific performance indicators for the Dartford River Crossing:

1. The average queue length at the toll booths;
2. The average time for payment transactions;
3. The effectiveness of responding to faults within technology equipment at the Dartford Crossing;
4. The rate of injuries, accidents and near misses to road workers at the Dartford Crossing.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Air Pollution

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what aspects of air quality are monitored at the Dartford River Crossing; and if he will make a statement. [309418]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency undertakes workplace exposure surveys to ascertain background concentrations of diesel exhaust fumes, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, toluene, xylene, ethyl benzene and benzene during the normal working day.

The results are measured against Health and Safety Executive Workplace Exposure Limits and other European exposure limits. This monitoring, which is carried out by an independent organisation, shows that the levels being recorded at the Dartford Crossing are consistently well below set acceptable levels.

Under part 4 of the Environment Act 1995, Dartford Borough Council and Thurrock Council operate Air Quality Management Areas on the A282 adjacent to the crossing. These results can be found on the following websites:

www.dartford.gov.uk

www.thurrock.gov.uk

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Road Traffic

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what systems are used for switching on "Q" queuing signs on the Dartford River Crossing approaches; and what *(a)* traffic levels and *(b)* other variables trigger the signs. [309416]

Chris Mole: The "Q" signs on the approaches to the Dartford River Crossing were unique to Dartford and did not conform to signs used on the rest of the highway network. Their use was terminated in April 2009.

At present, traffic flows are monitored and when operators perceive that congestion has developed on the approach to the crossing, signs warning of queues are set manually.

The Highways Agency are in the process of implementing proposals for variable message signs to display the word "Queue" and be automatically set by the Motorway Incident Detection and Automatic Signalling system based on various factors including traffic levels. This system is expected to operate from April 2010.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport between which points journey time measurements relating to the Dartford River Crossing are monitored on a monthly basis by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency. [309417]

Chris Mole: The Dartford Crossing is part of the strategic road network, which is monitored by the Highways Agency.

The crossing lies within one of the routes monitored for progress against the Department for Transport's public service agreement indicator on journey time reliability on the strategic road network. The public service agreement indicator relates to delays rather than specific journey times. Information is collected by the Highways Agency on behalf of the Department.

The indicator route from Junction 30 to Junction 7 of the M25 (clockwise and anti-clockwise) includes the road over the crossing.

Journey time information is also collected by the Highways Agency for each junction to junction link on the motorway network. Links from Junction 30 to Junction 2 of the M25 (clockwise and anti-clockwise) are used to provide journey time estimates for vehicles using the crossing. The crossing itself is most closely represented by links from Junction 31 to Junction 1A of the M25.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average traffic flow through each of the toll-collecting lanes at the Dartford River Crossing toll plaza during each *(a)* day and *(b)* week in the last 12 months. [309422]

Chris Mole: The average traffic flow through each of the toll-collecting lanes at the Dartford River Crossing toll plaza during each *(a)* daily period and *(b)* week are as follows:

Average traffic flows by lane for the period 13 September 2009 to 2 January 2010, figures for charging period only (06:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

Lane	*Daily*	*Weekly*
1	3,532	24,722
2	4,443	31,102
3	4,934	34,541
4	4,150	29,051
5	4,564	31,947
6	4,691	32,836
7	4,492	31,446
8	4,734	33,136
9	5,020	35,140
10	4,505	31,537
11	4,839	33,873
12	4,630	32,413
13	4,803	33,623
14	4,385	30,698
15	4,672	32,706
16	4,619	32,334
17	4,135	28,943
18	3,933	27,528
19	4,227	29,592
20	4,435	31,042
21	4,860	34,017
22	5,200	36,399
23	5,419	37,934
24	5,032	35,224
25	5,321	37,247
26	5,550	38,852
27	5,559	38,915

Average traffic flows by lane for the period 13 September 2009 to 2 January 2010, figures for charging period only (06:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent progress has been made against public service agreement targets relating to congestion at *(a)* the Dartford River Crossing and *(b)* roads leading to that crossing. [309423]

Chris Mole: On 3 December 2009 the Department published the latest monthly statistics (October 2009) on congestion on inter-urban roads as part of monitoring progress on its public service agreement (PSA) target.

The Dartford River Crossing lies within one of the routes monitored (M25 junction 30 to junction 7) for the PSA target. Table 1 shows the provisional figures for this route for the year ending October 2009.

Table 1: Average vehicle delay (minutes per 10 miles) on the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys on the PSA route incorporating the Dartford Crossing

Road number	*Route start point*	*Route end point*	*Average vehicle delay year ending March 2008*	*Average vehicle delay year ending October 2009*
M25/A282	J30 Dartford	J7 Redhill	9.46	7.30
M25/A282	J7 Redhill	J30 Dartford	11.35	8.42

Table 2 shows the provisional figures for the year ending October 2009 for the PSA routes approaching the Dartford Crossing.

Table 2: Average vehicle delay (minutes per 10 miles) on the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys on the PSA routes approaching the Dartford Crossing

Road number	*Route start point*	*Route end point*	*Average vehicle delay year ending March 2008*	*Average vehicle delay year ending October 2009*
A13/A1089	A1089 Tilbury	A13 Aveley	4.86	4.40
A2	London	M2 (J1)	8.42	3.60
A2	M2 (J1)	London	6.49	3.22
M25	J23 Barnet	J30 Dartford	10.63	9.11

This information can be also found on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/excel/173025/221412/221546/227050/227328/srnroutes.xls

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency has set targets to increase the rate at which vehicles may pass through the Dartford River Crossing toll plaza. [309424]

Chris Mole: The Dartford River Crossing is part of the Strategic Road Network which is monitored by the Highways Agency. The Highways Agency's contract with the Dartford Crossing operator (Connect Plus) has a requirement for a traffic throughput at the Dartford Toll plazas of 5,000 vehicles per hour, without generating traffic queues extending beyond the toll plaza areas.

To monitor performance against this requirement, the average queue length is measured and reported separately for each payment plaza and time of day (peak, off-peak, night). The average toll collection transaction time each month is also measured and reported upon.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made a recent estimate of the average balance of a Dartford River Crossing pre-payment Dart-Tag user's account in respect of each vehicle type. [309420]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not make estimates of average balances of Dartford River Crossing pre-payment Dart-Tag accounts.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the daytime charge for use of the Dartford River Crossing including discounts, was for each vehicle type *(a)* when a Dart-Tag was being used by a driver registered in (i) Dartford constituency, (ii) Thurrock constituency, (iii) Gravesham constituency and (iv) another area and *(b)* when a driver was not using a Dart-Tag in 1997; on what dates such charges have changed since 1997; and what the new charge was in each case. [309421]

Chris Mole: The daytime charges for use of the Dartford River Crossing in 1997 were as follows:

£

	Dartford Constituency		*Thurrock Constituency*		*Gravesham Constituency*		*Other Areas*	
1997	*Cash*	*Dart-tag*	*Cash*	*Dart-tag*	*Cash*	*Dart-tag*	*Cash*	*Dart-tag*
Car	1	0.93p	1	0.93p	1	0.93p	1	0.93p
2 axle goods vehicles	1.80	1.67	1.80	1.67	1.80	1.67	1.80	1.67
Multi-axle vehicle	2.90	2.69	2.90	2.69	2.90	2.69	2.90	2.69
Charges effective from 15 November 2008								
Car		[1]—			1.50	1.00	1.50	1.00
2 axle goods vehicles	2.00	1.75	2.00	1.75	2.00	1.75	2.00	1.75
Multi-axle vehicles	3.70	3.20	13.70	3.20	3.70	3.20	3.70	3.20

[1] For an Annual registration fee of 10.00, residents within Dartford and Thurrock council areas are entitled to make 50 free crossings each year and then pay 20p for each subsequent crossing.

Note:

Charge for towing a trailer or caravan was the same as charge of towing vehicle e.g. one car = two with caravan

In 1997 there were no discounts available to local residents and there was no differentiation between day and night time charges. Any vehicle towing a trailer or caravan was charged double the above amount.

Revised charges came into effect on 15 November 2008 and all vehicles became free of charge between 10pm and 6am. In addition, there is no longer a charge for towing a trailer/caravan.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what advertising campaigns for which his Department is responsible have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10; and what the cost of each such campaign has been. [309945]

Chris Mole: Estimates of planned advertising expenditure for 2009-10 on campaigns being run by the central Department and its executive agencies are set out in the following table.

Planned advertising campaign expenditure 2009-10

Organisation	*Campaign*	*£000*
DfT(C)	THINK!	11,084
	Act on C02	4,400
	Transport Direct	430
DSA	Passplus	26
	Driver CPC	38
	Enhanced Rider Scheme	87
	Eco-Safe DSA	9
DVLA	Sale of Marks	2,960
	VED Enforcement	1,383
	Electronic Vehicle Licensing	1,660
	Driver Licence on-line (DLO)	2,233
GCDA	—	0
HA	Roadworker Safety	292
	Don't be that Guy	57
	Summer Getaway	87
MCA	Sea Smart (Dial 999 for the Coastguard)	34
	Tombstoning	15
	Lifejackets	65
VCA	—	0
VOSA	ATF Campaign planned for 2010	2

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310520]

Chris Mole: The information requested for the Department for Transport and its seven Executive Agencies, is provided in the following table.

		(i) Vacant		*(ii) Occupied*	
DfT Organisational Unit		*(A) Owned*	*(B) Rented*	*(A) Owned*	*(B) Rented*
DfT Central	(a) Area	0	0	2,046	38,829
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	n/a	[1]—	[2]12.3 million
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	(a) Area	0	2,294	46,508	40,203
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	0.5 million	6.1 million	6.4 million
Driving Standards Agency	(a) Area	0	2,995	0	6,620
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	415,000	n/a	1 million
Government Car and Despatch Agency	(a) Area	0	0	0	5,172
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	n/a	n/a	[2]910,117
Highways Agency	(a) Area	0	1,300	3,450	26,500
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	0.18 million	1.7 million	[2]5 million
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	(a) Area	0	0	19,699	32,216
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	n/a	54.3 million	[2]2.2 million
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	(a) Area	0	0	2,474	7,035.00
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	n/a	2.1 million	[2]1.4 million
Vehicle Certification Agency	(a) Area	0	0	0	2,024
	(b) Estimated value (£)	n/a	n/a	n/a	[2]188,126

[1] Data not available.
[2] Based on passing rent.
Note:
Driving Standards Agency response excludes properties shared with other Government Departments—Maritime and Coastguard Agency estate is classified as either "core" or "non-core" and is not divided into "office" or "other". The figures above reflect "core" space.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308835]

Chris Mole: This information is not held centrally and the Department for Transport can provide the detail of the cost of conferences organised which were subsequently cancelled and what they were called in each of the last three years only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessor and (ii) each of its agencies and NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309267]

Chris Mole: The following administrative penalties have been identified as being within the scope of the question.

1. By sections 54, 62 and 75 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 vehicle examiners working within the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) (an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport) have power to issue fixed penalties in respect of certain road traffic offences. An example of an offence for which VOSA may issue a fixed penalty is an offence in relation to drivers' hours (under section 96(11) of the Transport Act 1968).

From May 2009 (when the power was introduced) to December 2009, VOSA issued fixed penalties to the total value of £2.4 million.

2. The Railways Act 1993 provides for certain administrative penalty powers within the scope of the question:

(a) Section 55(7A) allows the Secretary of State to make a final or provisional order against a relevant operator (most obviously a franchisee). The order may contain a requirement to pay the

Secretary of State a specified sum in the event of a specified contravention of the order. The specified sum may not exceed 10 per cent. of the relevant entity's annual turnover.

(b) Section 57A allows the Secretary of State to impose a penalty on a relevant operator (most obviously a franchisee). A penalty imposed under this section may not exceed 10 per cent. of the relevant entity's annual turnover.

The Strategic Rail Authority (from which the Secretary of State took over responsibility for imposing penalties under sections 55(7A) and 57A) imposed one penalty of £2 million in 2002 under section 57A. The Secretary of State has never imposed a penalty under section 55(7A) or 57A and is not aware that the Strategic Rail Authority imposed any further penalties.

The Office of the Rail Regulator (and its predecessor—it was established in its current form in 2004) has also imposed penalties under the Railways Act 1993 but details are not included in this response as it is a separate (non-ministerial) Government Department and not an agency or NDPB of the Department for Transport.

3. Section 7A of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 and regulation 9A of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002 operate so that where registered keepers of motor vehicles do not pay their vehicle excise duty on time (and renew their vehicle licence) they are charged a supplement. This supplement may be collected as a debt by the Crown. By regulation 9A(3):

> "The supplement shall be £80, except when it is paid to the Secretary of State before the expiry of 28 days beginning with the date on which the registered keeper is notified that a supplement may or has become payable, when it shall be £40."

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport) is responsible for collecting the supplements. It has recovered the following amounts since supplements were introduced in January 2004:

Financial year	*Penalty income (£ million)*
2003-04	0.1
2004-05	17
2005-06	24.1
2006-07	24.5
2007-08	28.3
2008-09	30.1

4. Traffic Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport.

They have the power to impose administrative penalties under section 155 of the Transport Act 2000 (which has been amended by the Local Transport Act 2008). Section 155 enables the Commissioners to impose financial sanctions of up to £550 per vehicle operated under a Public Service Vehicle operator's licence. The recent amendments made by the 2008 Act also enable the Commissioners to require operators to pay compensation to passengers affected by poorly operated services, or to require operators to spend money either on specific services or facilities, or on improvements to such services or facilities. Section 155 extends to England and Wales. There is an equivalent provision in relation to Scotland contained in section 39 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 (sums recovered are paid to the Scottish Ministers). Section 39 has not, however, been amended in the same way as section 155 was by the 2008 Act.

Under section 111 of the Transport Act 1985 (as amended by section 158 of the Transport Act 2000), Traffic Commissioners could require the operator of unregistered or unreliable local services to repay up to 20 per cent. of a bus fuel duty grant. Section 111 was repealed with effect from 2002.

The following table sets out the penalties imposed under the section 39, the section 111 and the section 155 powers (taken together; in some cases the amounts have been estimated).

	Penalties imposed (£)
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	45,000.00
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	181,209.00
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	140,725.00
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	275,580.00
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	90,050.00
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	214,978.00
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	407,590.00
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	199,170.00
1 April 2009 to 30 September 2009	32,900.00

5. The British Transport Police Authority ("BTPA") is an NDPB of the Department for Transport. A constable of the British Transport Police Force ("BTP Force", being the police force that the BTPA maintains and oversees) has power to issue penalty notices. The principal powers are:

(a) Section 2 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, under which a constable of the BTP Force may issue penalty notices in respect of the disorderly behaviour offences listed in section 1 of that Act. An example of such an offence is trespassing on a railway (under section 55 of the British Transport Commission Act 1949).

Section 2 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 extends to England and Wales, but not to Scotland.

(b) Sections 54, 62 and 75 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, under which a constable of the BTP Force has power to issue fixed penalties in respect of certain road traffic offences. An example of such an offence is failure to stop a vehicle upon being so required by a constable in uniform (under section 163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988).

(c) Section 129 of the Anti-social Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, under which a constable of the BTP Force in Scotland has power (since 1 April 2009) to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of the antisocial behaviour offences specified in section 128 of that Act. An example of such an offence is vandalism (under section 52(1) of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995).

From 2006 (when constables of the BTP Force started issuing fixed penalties in England and Wales) to 2009, the following amounts have been recovered by way of payment for fixed penalties in England and Wales:

	Penalty income (£)
2006	109,320
2007	180,270
2008	169,500
2009	189,140

In the time available, it has been possible to obtain payment figures only for England and Wales.

6. Section 129 of the Energy Act 2004 allows certain provisions of that Act which are relevant to renewable fuels to be "designate" by Order, and then for civil penalties to be imposed by the Renewable Fuels Agency

(an NDPB of the Department for Transport) in respect of non-compliance with those designated provisions. Article 23 of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation Order 2007 details the designated provisions in question.

The civil penalty mechanism has not been used and so no sums have been paid.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310817]

Chris Mole: Within the Department for Transport, on-site catering services are only available at the Department's main headquarters building in London, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) sites in Swansea, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Training and Development centre in Cardington (Bedfordshire) and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) HQ in Bristol.

The requested information is not recorded at our main headquarters building in London nor is it recorded at the DVLA or at VOSA.

Since July 2009, all food waste at the DSA Training and Development Centre in Cardington has been sent for recycling by anaerobic digestion and then converted into energy. Between July 2009 to December 2009, 3.76 tonnes of food waste has been recycled.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 495W, on departmental public expenditure, how much funding is being transferred from his Department's budgets to the Department for Communities and Local Government; and from which of his Department's budgets that funding will be transferred. [308660]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has transferred £350 million from its capital budget for 2009-10, to the Department for Communities and Local Government. Of this, £300 million was made available from the release of rail fiscal stimulus funding with the remaining £50 million coming from the Departmental Unallocated Provision.

Driving: Safety

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what consideration he has given to the effects on *(a)* road safety and *(b)* operational efficiency of the displacement of commercial vehicles from motorway service areas whose drivers are required by the terms of their operators licence to take breaks of in excess of two hours in driving; and if he will make a statement; [310614]

(2) if he will investigate the effects on the drivers of commercial vehicles who are required by the terms of their operator's licence to take a break of in excess of two hours of motor service areas restrictions on parking for more than two hours; and if he will make a statement. [310619]

Chris Mole: Motorway service areas are required, as outlined in the Government's Policy on Roadside Facilities on Motorways and All-Purpose Trunk Roads (DFT circular January 2008), to provide free parking for up to two hours for all types of vehicle. This allows drivers of commercial vehicles to comply with the break requirements in the EU drivers' hours rules which were introduced to support road safety. After two hours, operators are permitted to charge for parking.

The Government plan, as part of their strategy for lorry parking provision in England, to undertake a formal review of the whole policy, which will include its role in contributing to road safety and operational efficiency.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) when he last had discussions with *(a)* representatives of road safety organisations and *(b)* motoring organisations representing drivers of (i) private cars and (ii) commercial operators regarding drivers on long journeys on motorways taking a break; and if he will make a statement; [310615]

(2) what his policy is on encouraging drivers of all categories of vehicles to take breaks while on long journeys; and if he will make a statement. [310617]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport meets and consults with road safety and motoring organisations to discuss a range of motoring related issues from time to time. It was a member of a recent sub-group on fatigue issues of the Health and Safety Executive's Road Death Action Group which met with the industry and trade unions to agree best practice and advice to employers.

The Department's policy is to encourage drivers to plan their journeys to include breaks every two hours or so. Advice is contained in rule 91 of the current Highway Code, which is available online. The Department's THINK! Road Safety and Driving for Better Business campaigns also provide advice on driver sleepiness. These are online at:

www.dft.gov.uk/think

and

http://www.drivingforbetterbusiness.com/

respectively.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to erect 'tiredness kills, take a break' signs on trunk roads in the vicinity of service areas; and if he will make a statement. [310616]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency does authorise the use of signs with the legend 'Tiredness can kill Take a break' to raise driver awareness of the need, on a long journey, for drivers to stop at a service area for a break in their journey. There is no evidence to prove that this type of sign, if installed in advance of every service area, would generate significant road safety improvements. They are placed on motorways and dual carriageway trunk roads where there is a very considerable distance between service areas or where there is a known problem of driver fatigue.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will extend the derogation on drivers' hours for the delivery of home heating fuels beyond 18 January 2010. [311307]

Paul Clark: On 15 January a further extension to the relaxation of the enforcement of the EU drivers' hours rules was granted for the distribution of gas/oil and liquid petroleum gas. The relaxation runs until 23.59 on 25 January 2010.

Local Government: Parking

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidelines his Department has issued on the setting of council car park charges since 1997. [310772]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport's Operational Guidance to Local Authorities on Parking Policy and Enforcement states that the setting of charges for parking on-street or off-street in designated areas is a matter for the authority in accordance with the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984. The Secretary of State recommends that authorities set charges at levels which are consistent with the aims of the authority's transport strategy, including its road safety and traffic management strategies.

The Operational Guidance makes clear that authorities should never use parking charges just to raise revenue or as a local tax. Where there is surplus income local authorities must ensure that any on-street revenue is used according to the provisions of section 55 of the RTRA.

Motorways: Road Traffic

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 768W, on motorways, what assessment he has made of the effects on the level of motorway congestion of the DAB radio service Traffic Radio since its introduction. [309477]

Chris Mole: Traffic Radio is one of a suite of Highways Agency information services designed to provide road users with access to the very latest traffic information.

Research has shown that awareness and usage of information services can influence levels of motorway congestion. It is not possible to directly correlate the impact of Traffic Radio to motorway congestion due to the complexity of assessing one information service in isolation from the others. In addition, information is only one of a series of measures that can contribute towards congestion reduction.

The Highways Agency is undertaking a piece of research to evaluate whether the anticipated benefits of Traffic Radio, as outlined in its original specification, have been realised. This work is due to be completed by April 2010 and will be supplemented by information from the agency's annual Measuring Improvements in Network Information Services survey.

Parking

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason powers to ban pavement parking outside London were not included in the revised civil enforcement powers introduced in 2009. [311206]

Mr. Khan: Local authorities outside London already have powers to prohibit parking on the footway where they consider this to be a problem, using Traffic Regulation Orders and appropriate traffic signs. They are also able to use physical measures such as high kerbs or bollards, which are self-enforcing and effective.

There are no powers in primary legislation for the Secretary of State to make regulations that would enable local authorities to ban parking on the footway without a Traffic Regulation Order.

Passenger Ships: Liverpool

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 142WS, on Liverpool Cruise Terminal, whether he has received a further application from Liverpool City Council for change of use linked to repayment of *(a)* grant funding from the European Regional Development Fund and *(b)* funding from the Northwest Regional Development Agency. [309982]

Paul Clark: No. This would primarily be a matter for the Government Office North West which authorised the European regional development fund grant and the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

If repayments were made such that the Liverpool Cruise Terminal could no longer be regarded as having relied on public subsidy there would be no barrier to the proposed change of use on grounds of state aid, ports competition or harbour regulations.

Railways: Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the bus rail replacement service between Ealing Broadway and Wandsworth Road first began operation; how much it has cost to date; and whether it is still running. [311207]

Chris Mole: The rail replacement bus service between Ealing Broadway and Wandsworth Road first started operation in December 2008 following timetable changes by Cross Country. The service costs approximately £2,000 per month.

It is planned that the service will cease in spring this year when Southern will commence operation of a service between Ealing Broadway and Wandsworth Road.

Roads: Police

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what evaluation his Department has made of the effects of the joint Home Office/Department for Transport/Association of Chief Police Officers strategy on roads policing published in January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [309528]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not made any formal evaluation of the effects of the joint Roads Policing Strategy. However, the strategy provides a useful framework for our close cooperation with the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers towards the goal of making our roads safer for all road users.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the extent of damage to roads as a result of the weather since December 2009; what estimate he has made of the costs to local authorities of such damage; and what assistance his Department plans to provide to local authorities for their repair. [311205]

Mr. Khan: It will be for each local highway authority to assess the damage to its network resulting from the severe weather, and to estimate the costs of repair.

The Department will consider any requests for financial assistance that local authorities may make, in line with its established criteria. It will also provide engineering consultancy support to local authorities formulating bids. It will be for each bidding authority to demonstrate that the damage is exceptional.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 136-38WS, on road safety, when he plans to publish his Department's response to its consultation on road safety entitled "A Safer Way". [309451]

Paul Clark: On 3 December 2009, we announced that an independent expert, Sir Peter North, had been appointed to examine the possible changes to the law on drink and drug driving.

The timing of the new road safety strategy will depend on the outcome of Sir Peter North's report, which will inform the final contents of the strategy. We therefore expect to publish our response to the "A Safer Way" road safety consultation alongside the new road safety strategy.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what quantity of road salt was held in stock by each local authority on 30 November 2009. [310225]

Mr. Khan: Following the severe weather conditions last February, the Government asked the UK Roads Liaison Group to identify the lessons that should be learnt regarding highway authorities' preparedness for extreme weather events. The UK Roads Liaison Group made 19 recommendations, one of which advised that:

> "in considering appropriate service standards, at least six days resilience would represent sensible good practice for determining the number of days resilience during the core winter period".

The group noted that the Highways Agency was already holding a minimum of six days continuous heavy salting capacity in winter periods. The Highways Agency entered this winter period with 13 days capacity and the Government regard this as the right response following last year's events.

It is for each authority to consider the recommendations and decide for themselves how best to take them forward. However, a write-round in late October by regional resilience teams (RRTs) in the Government offices found that of those local authorities that responded (a third of local highway authorities), all but one were holding at least six days' supply, and more than half of those responding arranged to hold 10 days' supply or more.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure the availability of road salt. [310226]

Mr. Khan: The Government have convened a group called the 'Salt Cell', bringing together the Department for Transport, the devolved Administrations (Scotland and Wales), the Highways Agency, the Local Government Association (LGA), County Surveyors Society, Met Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office.

The aim of the 'Salt Cell' is to provide advice to suppliers on the most effective distribution of available salt supplies in order to minimise the risk to public safety. The 'Salt Cell' is continuously gathering and assessing information on salt stock and resilience levels and is working hard to ensure salt goes to where it is needed most.

On 12 January, the Government directed the Highways Agency to conserve the maximum possible salt usage each day consistent with maintaining the continued safe operation of the national motorway and truck road network. The Highways Agency will conserve significantly more salt than the 25 per cent. which it committed to conserving on 8 January.

For local roads, local authorities will also need to conserve significantly more than 25 per cent., recognising the importance of mutual support to keep Britain moving safely. Local authorities are taking their own decisions as to the priorities of supplies in their localities. They also need to follow the Highways Agency in reviewing their salt spreading strategy.

In aggregate, these measures will conserve between 40 and 50 per cent. compared to usage before the announcement on 8 January. On this basis, the Government expect salt supplies to be sustainable throughout the period of snow and extreme cold weather.

We have also set up mutual aid arrangements, between the Highways Agency and local authorities, to help relieve areas which are experiencing particularly tight stocks of salt.

We will continue to monitor salt supplies and work with all stakeholders, including the Highways Agency, Local Government Association and salt suppliers, to ensure that we continue to take the necessary collective action to ensure salt supplies are provided to those who need it most.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will give further consideration to returning responsibility for road gritting to lower tier local authorities in two-tier areas; and if he will make a statement. [310699]

Mr. Khan: Winter service is an integral part of highways maintenance, and contributes to highways authorities' discharge of their traffic management duties. To separate it from these other aspects of providing a highway service would offer no benefits but could create inefficiencies.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions the Highways Agency has requested to borrow *(a)* grit and *(b)* salt from local authorities in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) the last six months; how many such requests were granted; and how many tonnes of (A) grit and (B) salt were borrowed in each such case. [311208]

Mr. Khan: Grit is not used to treat the Highways Agency's road network and as such, no grit has been requested from local authorities.

Over the last six months, the Highways Agency has made one request to borrow salt from a local authority. This was granted on 3 January 2010 when one of the areas in the agency's north-eastern region borrowed 40 tonnes from Northumberland county council. Other than this occurrence, the Highways Agency is not aware of any other circumstances where salt was borrowed from local authorities in the last five years.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the amount of salt which has been stolen from *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local authorities since 1 December 2009. [311209]

Mr. Khan: There has been no salt stolen from the Highways Agency since 1 December 2009. We have no information about salt stolen from local authorities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Legal Deposit Libraries Act

19. **Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 will be fully brought into effect. [310905]

Margaret Hodge: The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 commenced on 1 February 2004. It was always the intention that the Act would be implemented progressively, as it is enabling legislation in a complex and challenging area.

We are currently consulting on proposals for UK offline publications and UK online publications (available free of charge and without access restrictions). In the event that draft regulations result, they would be subject to affirmative resolution in both Houses.

Olympics 2012: Tourism

20. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to promote the UK as a tourist destination in association with the London 2012 Olympics. [310906]

Margaret Hodge: My Department's sponsored body, VisitBritain, will shortly be publishing their marketing strategy for 2012 which will look at ways to integrate 2012 games messages into everyday work. In essence this means that every aspect of tourism work will feature the 2012 games.

There will also be standalone 2012 games activity such as a campaign to tackle displacement during 2012, a 50 per cent. increase in media coverage, a travel trade engagement programme, offline and online visitor information and UK summits for the media/world travel leaders and the business travel market.

Very simply, in partnership with industry and the wider public sector, I am seeking to use the 2012 games to promote the wider messages and interests of destination Britain.

World Cup 2018

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the Football Association's bid to host the 2018 football World Cup. [310887]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are regular discussions with the Department and we have recently been able to agree all necessary guarantees to FIFA and a loan of £2.5 million to support the bid.

Free Swimming Initiative

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of its free swimming initiatives for young people and the elderly; and if he will make a statement. [310897]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 10.4 million free swims undertaken in the first six months are a huge vote of confidence in free swimming and indicate the initiative is being embraced by young and old alike.

We are delighted that 81 per cent. of all eligible councils are signed up to offering free swimming to the older age group and 61 per cent. are also offering free swimming to the those aged 16 and under.

The Government have commissioned a robust independent evaluation of the free swimming programme which is led by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

PricewaterhouseCoopers will draw together a range of data over the coming months to evaluate the impact of the programme. We expect an evaluation report to be published in early summer 2010.

Holiday Lettings: Taxation

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effects on the tourism industry of changes in taxation of furnished holiday lettings. [310898]

Margaret Hodge: I met my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury during December to discuss the tourism industry's concerns about the potential impact of the rule changes on the self catering sector. I also helped to convene a meeting in December between representatives of the Tourism Alliance, the Financial Secretary and Treasury officials.

Competitive Sports: Schools

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to facilitate the development of competitive sports in schools. [310904]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The annual school sport survey has shown a steady rise in the number of young people taking up competitive sport since 2003.

This reflects the fact that competitive school sport is a top priority for this Government as part of our commitment to give every young person the opportunity to do five hours PE and sport a week.

From 2008-11, Government are investing over £25 million in a network of 225 competition managers to increase the number of young people engaged in regular high quality inter-school competitive events.

This is part of the £780 million being invested from 2008-11 in the PE and sport strategy for young people to help create a sustainable sporting legacy from hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Furthermore, we have made universal access to regular competitive sport a key part of our new pupil guarantee, which will enshrine in law this Government's commitment to provide competitive sport for all.

Arts Council of England: Pensions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, on Arts Council England, whether Arts Council England has used *(a)* National Lottery proceeds and *(b)* grant-in-aid funding to reduce its pension fund deficit in each of the last three years. [311085]

Margaret Hodge: As stated in the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 860W, issues such as pay and pensions are operational matters for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Community Radio Fund

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the Government has allocated to the Community Radio Fund in each of the last five years. [310723]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Funds provided to Community Radio Fund (£)*
2005-06	444,026
2006-07	828,775
2007-08	468,215
2008-09	454,994
2009-10	[1]233,460

[1] Further funding will be allocated in the final quarter of this financial year.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many iPods have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311906]

Mr. Simon: My Department has not bought any iPods since 2005.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 907W, on departmental consultants, what the job title is of each of the 43 policy and senior advisers employed by his Department; and which of the posts are occupied by people on 12 month fixed-term contracts. [308286]

Mr. Simon: The 43 policy and senior advisers are known as either a policy or senior adviser and do not have any other job title. None of the posts are occupied by people on fixed-term contracts.

Fraud: Telephones

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints regarding fraudulent schemes conducted by telephone Ofcom has received in each of the last 10 years. [311285]

Mr. Simon: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to write direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Gambling: Crime

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the loss in revenue to the Exchequer consequent on illegal gambling in each of the last five years; [310116]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of the illegal gambling market in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [310149]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the loss in revenue due to illegal gambling are not available.

No estimate is available for the monetary value of the illegal gambling market in the UK.

Parliamentary Questions: Administrative Delays

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to answer Question 307583, on the reorganisation of Arts Council England, tabled on 14 December 2009. [311445]

Margaret Hodge: I answered my hon. Friend's question on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1039W.

Radio Services

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to promote the provision of local radio services. [310721]

Mr. Simon: We have proposed a number of regulatory changes in the Draft Digital Economy Bill and the draft Community Radio (Amendment) Order 2010, in particular in the regulation of localness, which will support the local radio sector by providing greater business certainty and the opportunity to reduce costs.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on commercial radio stations of community radio advertising and sponsorship. [310724]

Mr. Simon: While no specific assessment has been made of the effects on commercial radio stations of the advertising and sponsorship restrictions placed on community radio stations, it was examined in the context of the regulatory changes proposed in the impact assessment which accompanied the draft Community Radio (Amendment) Order 2010.

Radio: Licensing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many community radio licences *(a)* were awarded and *(b)* ended in each month of the last five years. [310719]

Mr. Simon: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to write direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what service criteria must be met by community radio stations in order to receive a radio licence. [310720]

Mr. Simon: The terms under which Ofcom must assess an application for a community radio licence were set out in the Community Radio Order 2004.

These include:

> the extent to which the provision of any such proposed service would result in the delivery of social gain to the public or the relevant community;
>
> the provision that each of the applicants proposes to make in order to render himself accountable to the relevant community in respect of the provision of the proposed service;
>
> the provision that each of the applicants proposes to make to allow for access by members of the relevant community to the facilities to be used for the provision of the service and for their training in the use of those facilities.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to bring forward proposals to remove the restrictions on community radio licence areas in respect of advertising and sponsorship. [310722]

Mr. Simon: The Government have no plans at this time to remove the current advertising and sponsorship restrictions which were placed on community radio stations in the Community Radio Order 2004.

However, following reviews of the sector by Ofcom and as part of the Digital Britain Review we have introduced a draft Community Radio Order 2010 which seeks to reduce the regulatory burden on community stations. The order would allow stations to take more than 50 per cent. of their funding from a single source and allow stations to apply for a renewal, of up to five years, of their existing licence. Taken together we believe these measures will support the community radio sector in the future without any significant impact on local commercial stations.

Serpentine: Swimming

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons the Serpentine has been closed to swimmers in January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [R] [310947]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks advise that the swimming area in the Serpentine is open for swimming to the general public daily between June and September. Members of the Serpentine Swimming Club may use the swimming area throughout the year. The Serpentine swimming area was not closed during January 2009.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on which occasions the Serpentine has been closed to swimmers due to icy conditions in the last 30 years. [310948]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks (TRP) advise that they do not keep records going back 30 years about when and why the Serpentine swimming area was closed. In recent years TRP has never closed the swimming facility due to icy conditions. During the recent cold weather, access to the path immediately adjacent to the swimming area by the general public was restricted, because of safety concerns, after some visitors had walked on to the ice. The Serpentine Swimming Club has been allowed to operate throughout the period and has been issued with keys to the gates to allow the club access.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons the Serpentine in Hyde Park has been closed to swimmers. [311583]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks advise that the Serpentine swimming area is not closed. Members of the Serpentine Swimming Club may use the swimming area throughout the year. The swimming area is open to the general public between June and September.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions the Serpentine in Hyde Park has been closed to swimmers since 1980. [311643]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks does not retain full records going back to 1980 about the times the Serpentine has been closed to swimmers. I understand that there was only one short period during the late

1990s when the whole of the Serpentine was closed while remedial treatment was undertaken to deal with serious problems relating to algae.

Sports and Culture: Job Creation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the planned 10,000 additional jobs in the sport and cultural sectors have been created; how much the Government has contributed to the creation of such jobs; and what timetable he has set for creating the remainder. [310977]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the Future Jobs Fund is not currently available but will be made available from spring 2010 through a statistical release that is planned to cover the whole of the Young Persons Guarantee.

This is normal practice for Department for Work and Pensions employment programmes and it allows time for input from the UK Statistics Authority and for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported. The scheme runs until 2011.

A major step on the way to the target was the announcement of 624 cultural jobs in December 2009.

Television: Advertising

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the likely effect on health of the relaxation of product placement rules in the context of broadcast television programmes. [310970]

Mr. Simon: Our consultation on product placement on television closed on 8 January. We had approximately 1,400 responses and plan to make an announcement as soon as possible on how we intend to proceed. A summary of responses will be published by the end of January.

Televisions: Licensing

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse is of the provision of a free television licence. [312013]

Mr. Simon: The provision of free television licences for people aged 75 or over is undertaken by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. According to the BBC's Annual Report and Accounts, licences to the value of £532.9 million were issued to those aged 75 or over in 2008-09.

Tourism

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists had a holiday in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [309496]

Margaret Hodge: VisitEngland has supplied the following information. They are unable to disaggregate the information down to the Vale of York constituency level.

The number of holiday visits to North Yorkshire and England by visitors from outside the United Kingdom for the last three years is:

Visits

			Thousand
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
North Yorkshire	190	170	185
England	8,989	9,139	9,351

The United Kingdom Tourism Survey records the number of holiday visits taken in North Yorkshire and England by United Kingdom residents as:

Visits

			Million
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
North Yorkshire	2.69	2.68	2.75
England	40.67	41.63	40.05

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* non-UK residents who took one or more holidays in the UK and *(b)* UK residents who took one or more holidays abroad in 2009. [309614]

Margaret Hodge: The Office for National Statistics has published provisional monthly holiday figures up to October 2009. The complete 2009 statistics will be available in July 2010. The estimated number of holidays to the UK by overseas residents in the 10-month period January to October 2009 is 9,920,000. The estimated number of holidays abroad by UK residents in that period is 35,000,000. However, the number of holidays taken by UK residents in the UK from January to September 2009 has risen to 49.9 million from 42.6 million in the equivalent nine months of 2008.

Tourism: Local Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage best practice among local authorities on the promotion of tourism. [310273]

Margaret Hodge: Working with local authorities will be a central part of the tourism strategy for England currently being developed by VisitEngland, which is expected to be launched shortly. My Department also supports an initiative called the Charter for Placemaking and Destination Management. This provides guidance to local authorities on the promotion, development and measurement of the impact of tourism within their localities, and on working with the industry and public sector partners.

The Department continues to engage with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association, and other partners (for example, Destination Performance UK and the British Resorts and Destinations Association) to promote these initiatives and the local visitor economy in general.

VisitBritain: Expenditure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the percentage change in VisitBritain's total budget in real terms was in each of the last five years. [310122]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The following table details the grant in aid expenditure by VisitBritain from 2004-05 through to 2008-09 and the percentage change on a year on year basis. In 2003-04 there was a merger between the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Council and an additional one-off amount of £2.0 million was allocated to the new body VisitBritain, to assist with the merger. This one-off payment is reflected in the figures for 2003-04 and explains the difference between 2003-04 and 2004-05.

VisitBritain grant in aid funding

£000

	Grant in aid as per resource account	*Real terms grant in aid at 2008-09 prices*	*Percentage change in real terms*
2003-04	51,372	58,374	
2004-05	48,400	53,510	-8.3
2005-06	48,900	53,072	-0.8
2006-07	49,900	52,601	-0.9
2007-08	50,650	51,892	-1.3
2008-09	49,900	49,900	-3.8

The figures are derived from the grant in aid data in the Department's Resource Account and converted to 2008-09 prices.

Following the three year comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement for VisitBritain from 2008-09 to 2010-11, we carried out a strategic review of British tourism in order to ensure better co-ordination of the estimated £2 billion public funding invested in tourism during the current CSR period, from local, regional and national sources, and to identify ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of that support. As a result, there has been a fundamental restructuring of VisitBritain and a strengthened role for VisitEngland. The Government are confident that these new arrangements will provide a more robust and responsive vehicle to grow and sustain the tourism and hospitality industry.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Sir Patrick Cormack: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who has been invited to the conference on Afghanistan which he announced in December; and where and when it will be held. [310931]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The conference will be held at Lancaster House on 28 January 2010. Invitees include Foreign Ministers from countries contributing troops to the International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan's immediate neighbours and key regional players, and representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the UN, the EU, international financial institutions and other organisations.

Further information about the conference can be found on its website at:

http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/en/conference/

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Survey Monitoring Target Verification project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and how much it received from his Department in each such year. [310153]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Survey Monitoring, Target and Verification (SMTV) Project provides timely and accurate data to support the Government of Afghanistan's implementation of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy, through surveying and monitoring poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and verifying poppy eradication. It also provides advice and technical training to the UN Office for Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) annual Opium Surveys. As the UNODC's capability has grown and as poppy cultivation has contracted, the scope of SMTV's work has changed, focusing more on the fewer high cultivation provinces resulting in a reduced funding requirement.

The funding the project received was as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2006-07	2,598,000
2007-08	2,492,965
2008-09	1,682,918
2009-10	1,411,059

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the UN Office for Drugs and Crime project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and how much it received from his Department in each such year. [310154]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Project supports the publication of the UNODC's annual report on poppy cultivation. This report provides reliable, independent data on the extent of poppy cultivation and poppy eradication in Afghanistan, informing counter narcotics policy.

The funding the project has received has been:

Financial year	*£*
2006-07	1,021,300
2006-07	1,021,300
2007-08	450,000
2008-09	300,000

Financial year	£
2009-10	200,000

Funding for the project has reduced as other international partners (primarily the US and Norway) increased their financial support for the project.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Counter Narcotics Research and Analysis project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and how much it received from his Department in each such year. [310155]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Counter Narcotics Research Programme provides the analytical basis for the UK's Counter Narcotics (CN) policy and aids its implementation. In ensuring a rigorous evidence base, monitoring and evaluation for CN, the programme contributes to the UK's effort to reduce the harm of the drugs trade to Afghanistan. A key product encompassing this information is the UK's annual Drivers Report that provides in-depth analysis of the factors that affect a farmers' decision to plant poppy or other crops. It continues to directly improve the knowledge base of farmers planting decisions in Afghanistan, informing UK policy and lobbying decisions on CN in Afghanistan.

Funding for the programme has been: financial year 2007-08—£241,631; financial year 2008-09—£243,401; and a budget for financial year 2009-10 of £296,000.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Eradication Support project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much it received from his Department in each such year. [310156]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Eradication Support project, supports the Government of Afghanistan in conducting eradication. Eradication is one of the eight pillars of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy. It provides information to ensure that eradication can be targeted on land belonging to major drugs traffickers and in areas where farmers have access to sustainable alternatives to poppy. Funding received by the project was as follows:

Financial year	£
2006-07	1,672,000
2007-08	598,000
2008-09	285,656
2009-10	517,205

There were reductions following the first year as capital costs were only necessary for the first year.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Extend Afghan Media Content project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much it received from his Department in each such year. [310159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The purpose of the Extend Afghan Media Content project is to support the development of an independent media, which is essential to undermining the insurgency and increasing the credibility of the Afghan Government and the international community. The decision to fund was taken because the project supports UK Afghan strategy on strategic communications.

The project received £150,000 in financial year 2006-07, its first year, and subsequently received £3.49 million in 2007-08, £362,000 in 2008-09 and £485,000 in 2009-10. The amount of funding has fluctuated, because this project is a "bundle" of media programming items, which have evolved over time as strategic priorities changed. In some years, there was a higher outlay for media content due to start-up costs. The project is meeting its programme goals, and is contributing to UK strategic objectives. It has not yet been completed.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Lashkar Gah Prison Build project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in 2008-09; and how much it received from his Department in that year. [310160]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The objective of the Lashkar Gah Prison Build project is the establishment of a prison in Lashkar Gah, Helmand, that meets international minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners. Secure and humanitarian prison facilities are an important part of building a trusted criminal justice system. In addition to the construction of new prison facilities, the project includes a programme of operational training for prison staff, with a focus on human right awareness and humane prisoner management. The project received £790,000 in its first year (2007-08), £623,813 in 2008-09, and £762,164 in 2009-10. The annual variation in funding reflects the high proportion of infrastructural costs paid for in 2007-08 and subsequent fluctuations in the year-on-year project costs.

We assess that this ongoing project is meeting its objectives. In October 2009, the project's first phase was completed when prisoners moved into the newly constructed prison facilities. The project's final phase, intended to further increase capacity, will continue throughout 2010-11. A final assessment will follow the project's completion.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Counter Narcotics Interdiction project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in 2009-10; and how much it has received from his Department in that year to date. [310161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Counter Narcotics Interdiction project mentors the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan in policing techniques, building technical capacity and developing the capability to disrupt key drugs networks. Funding for the project has been in FY 2006-07—£9,972,452; FY 2008-09—£15,778,000; FY 2009-10—£12,540,000.

Funding for this project has been adjusted during each year to meet the project's necessary financial requirements.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Political Activity (Elections) project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in 2009-10; and how much it has received from his Department in that year to date. [310162]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The purpose of the Elections project is to support Afghanistan's electoral cycle in 2009 and 2010—strengthening Afghanistan's electoral legislative framework, voter registration efforts, the capacity of the country's Independent Election Commission including its commissioners, secretariat, departments and provincial and regional offices, and support to broader electoral stakeholders, for example, civic education, the media and domestic observation. The project was funded to build confidence in Afghanistan's democratic institutions and provide a basis for sustainable government and democratic legitimacy, a core part of our stabilisation efforts. The project received £4.1 million in 2008-09, its first year, and subsequently received £200,000 in 2009-10. Funding reduced in the second year because the aim of the project was to enable pre-election activity (elections were held in August 2009). The project is meeting its programme goals and is contributing to UK strategic objectives through the delivery of the Afghan elections in 2009.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Lashkar Gah District Stabilisation project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in 2009-10; and how much it has received from his Department in that year to date. [310165]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The purpose of the District Stabilisation project is to support the Government of Afghanistan in extending and exerting its authority in key districts, increasingly isolating the insurgency. The project was funded to provide stabilisation experts to work in the districts and to fund delivery of local programmes and projects. The stabilisation advisers help to mentor and coach the Afghan district governors so that they can extend their reach and authority. Local projects delivered through the district governor also demonstrated the Government's ability to deliver whilst at the same time improving the lives of local people.

In financial year 2008-09, its first year, funding was distributed among the regions of the province as follows: Lashkar Gah £1.08 million, Musa Qala £2.92 million, Sangin £2 million, Garmsir £1.25 million. In 2009-10 the funding was distributed as follows: Lashkar Gah £1.14 million, Musa Qala £697,000, Sangin £792,00, Garmsir £513,000. The budget was reduced in Musa Qala, Sangin and Garmsir for a number of reasons. The 2008-09 budgets included a number of large infrastructure projects (such as road builds) which were completed in year and therefore not budgeted for in 2009-10. The projects are meeting their programme goals and are contributing to UK strategic objectives. The projects have not yet been completed.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Publicity Project was; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason his Department ceased to fund the programme in 2007-08; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [310167]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Detailed information is not readily available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Support for Afghan National Army—patrol vehicles project was; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason his Department ceased to fund the programme in 2007-08; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [310168]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Detailed information is not readily available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Drug Demand Reduction project was; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason his Department ceased to fund the programme in 2007-08; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [310169]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Drug Demand Reduction Project aimed to build capacity within the Afghan system to deal with the growing drug use problem and highlight the extent of that problem to Afghan policy makers and the Afghan public. Drug Demand Reduction is one of the eight pillars within the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy. The project received £760,000 in FY 2007-08. The project closed as the support was taken on by the US and integrated into their wider Drug Demand Reduction programme.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Helmand Police Drug Control project was; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason his Department ceased to fund the programme in 2008-09; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [310171]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Helmand Police Drug Control project was intended to provide drug education, detoxification and rehabilitation services to the Afghan National Police (ANP) in Helmand, and to make strategic recommendations on further reducing drug dependency within the ANP. We provided £500,000 in the project's only year (2008-09). This was a 12 month pilot project only intended for funding in 2008-09.

We assess that the project met its objectives. We have received positive feedback from international partners about the project. ANP drug-dependency reduction is now a programme under development between the Ministry of Interior and international partners.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Newsletters for Mullahs project was; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason his Department ceased to fund the programme in 2008-09; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [310172]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Local Mullahs in Helmand requested funding for the production of a newsletter to distribute to the literate members of the communities they lived in, to assist in countering the insurgent narrative in Helmand. The project was initially allocated £9,960 in financial year 2008-09, but the Mullahs did not take the project forward and so the budget was cut before the project started.

Aminatou Haidar

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Moroccan authorities against the *(a)* deportation from Western Sahara of Aminatou Haidar and *(b)* prevention of Saharawi human rights activists from travelling abroad. [310700]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed the case of Aminatou Haidar with the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Mr. Taieb Fassi Fihri, on 11 December 2009. His officials in London, our embassy in Rabat and the UK's Mission to the UN in New York, also discussed the case with their Moroccan counterparts throughout the period Ms Haidar was on hunger strike. The Government are pleased that the situation has been resolved. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials will continue to monitor the human dimension of the Western Sahara conflict and encourage greater transparency on human rights issues by all parties to the conflict.

We have not received any representations regarding Saharawi human rights activists being prevented from travelling abroad.

Belarus: Elections

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 407W, on Belarus, whether his Department plans to provide assistance to international missions to monitor the conduct of the forthcoming *(a)* local and *(b)* presidential elections in Belarus. [310453]

Chris Bryant: Our policy on Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe election observation missions remains to provide up to 10 per cent. of observers on an ad hoc basis. In the case of the elections in Belarus, and others in the next financial year, we have not yet decided on the level of assistance we will provide.

British Overseas Territories

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits he has made to UK overseas territories in the last 12 months; and what the purpose was of each visit. [311443]

Chris Bryant: In the last 12 months my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made two visits to the Overseas Territories.

He visited Gibraltar on 21 July 2009 to attend the latest ministerial meeting of the Trilateral Forum of Dialogue on Gibraltar. From 24 to 26 November 2009 he accompanied Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on their visit to Bermuda to mark the 400th anniversary of the first settlement of the island.

Departmental Flags

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 951W, on departmental flags, whether any EU flags were purchased by his Department in each of the last five years. [311552]

Chris Bryant: Three EU flags have been purchased in the UK since 2008, one in 2008 and two in 2009. Prior to 2008 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office contracted an external contractor to provide a flag raising service and therefore did not buy flags.

Details of flags purchased overseas are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [311514]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 977W.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 954W, on Government hospitality: wines, what software package is used to maintain a record of wine *(a)* used and *(b)* purchased for the Government wine cellar. [311438]

Chris Bryant: Government Hospitality has been working with Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services over the last 24 months to develop a new software package, based on the Windows SharePoint system, for the management of all cellar transactions. This system is now operational, but a substantial backlog of data are still being updated.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 954W, on Government hospitality: wines, what the cost to the public purse was of bottles of wine purchased for the Government wine cellar in 2008-09. [311439]

Chris Bryant: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is providing to British citizens in Haiti following the recent earthquake in that country. [311444]

Chris Bryant: Our ambassador and consular staff from our embassy in neighbouring Dominican Republic have been deployed in Haiti since the day after the earthquake, providing support to our honorary consul in Port-au-Prince. An eight-man Rapid Deployment Team has been sent to provide additional support to British nationals affected by the disaster. Our staff have been making every effort to contact all British nationals in Haiti to ensure their welfare and provide assistance to those who wish to leave the country.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other types of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [309366]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W.

Israel: Attorney General

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he was informed of the content of the speech made by the Attorney-General to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on 5 January 2010. [310437]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministerial speeches, statements and publications on any subject in Government are discussed and cleared by Ministers and officials as appropriate as part of normal business.

Languages

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1256-57W, on languages, whether more Dari and Pashto speakers will be required to accompany the recent troop surge. [307758]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Defence continually reviews language support to those forces deployed in Afghanistan, and there has been an increase in both Dari and Pashto speakers to support the recent troop surge.

Morocco: EU External Trade

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the issue of Morocco's compliance with UN Security Council resolutions on a referendum on self-determination were raised in discussions between the EU and Morocco on advanced status. [311123]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UN Security Council resolutions were not raised in discussions between the EU and Morocco on advanced status. The UK remains committed to a mutually acceptable political solution to the Western Sahara dispute, which provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We continue to support the work of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, and his efforts towards building confidence between the parties.

Nosratollah Tajik

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 205W, on Nosratollah Tajik, for what purpose officials in his Department have had discussions with officials of the US Administration in London and Washington; and whether officials on each occasion indicated that extradition was a judicial process over which the Foreign Secretary had no control. [311126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials regularly discuss issues of mutual interest with their US counterparts, both in London and in Washington. Such discussions have included updates on the extradition of Mr. Nosratollah Tajik. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have consistently made clear that this is a judicial process over which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no control.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is providing in respect of the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [310639]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the run up to the presidential election in Sri Lanka on 26 January 2010, we are providing funding to help support the work of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV), an independent Sri Lankan election monitoring body.

We also continue to encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to take effective measures to ensure the election is free and fair. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 11 January 2010 to urge his Government to ensure effective measures are in place to prevent and control election related violence, as well as ensuring the Election Commissioner's rulings are implemented effectively by the police and other authorities.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of levels of press freedom in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [310641]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of the serious threats against media personnel who are critical of the Government of Sri Lanka and monitor the subject closely. On 27 October 2009, the EU expressed its concern about reports of severe harassment of journalists, restrictions on freedom of the press and freedom of expression in Sri Lanka. We regularly urge the Government of Sri Lanka to take decisive action to guarantee press freedom.

In August journalist JS Tissainayagam was sentenced to 20 years following a conviction related to his writing. We are concerned about the message this sentence sends on the state of media freedoms in Sri Lanka. Mr. Tissainayagam was granted bail this week pending the outcome of his appeal. We are monitoring developments in the case closely.

Investigations have so far failed to identify those responsible for the assassination of Lasantha Wickrematunga, the Editor of *The Sunday Leader*, who was shot dead in Colombo on 8 January 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary most recently wrote to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 11 January 2010 to urge his Government to do everything possible to investigate the killing and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

Yemen

Sir Patrick Cormack: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements have been made for the conference on Yemen which he recently announced. [310932]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The meeting on Yemen which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced will take place on 27 January 2010, and is likely to last for around two hours. It will be principally at Foreign Minister level.

We are in the process of discussing participation and the agenda with key international partners.

Yemen: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Yemen. [311412]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Yemen continues to face economic crisis and state failure. Any worsening of the instability, terrorist activity and poverty already present in Yemen will have a detrimental effect on security—within Yemen and in the region.

The UK strategy is to tackle the core social, political and economic causes of these problems, in co-operation with the international community. The meeting in London on 27 January 2010 is part of our wider strategy towards Yemen, which aims to work with the international community to support the efforts of the Yemeni Government to address the fundamental problems they are facing.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make an assessment of the impact of the privatisation of CDC on achievement of his Department's development goals. [310297]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Between 1997 and 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) reviewed several restructuring options for CDC, including privatisation. CDC remains in HMG ownership and the investment process of CDC was reformed in 2004. All CDC funding is now channelled through investment funds that invest in the creation and growth of viable business in poorer developing countries.

A report by the National Audit Office (NAO) in 2008 concluded that

> "by achieving the strong financial results that it has, CDC will have made a credible contribution to economic development in its target countries while also encouraging other foreign investors to engage with them".

Through this contribution to economic growth the CDC has continued to contribute to the Department for International Development's (DFID's) goal of long-term poverty reduction.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310525]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has two office buildings in the UK. Our office at 1 Palace Street, London is a leasehold, with a net internal area of 16,405 square metres. Our office at

Abercrombie House, East Kilbride is freehold with a net internal area of 10,680 square metres.

Both buildings are fully occupied, although in the case of 1 Palace Street the building is shared with Visit Britain and Visit England, agencies of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The estimated market annual rental value assuming an underletting to another Government Department is as follows:

1 Palace Street: £9.6 million

Abercrombie House: £1.9 million.

North Korea: Food

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in North Korea affected by food shortages and malnutrition; and if he will make a statement; [310424]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the extent of food shortages in North Korea; and if he will make a statement. [310425]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible to give a recent assessment of the level of food shortages in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The Government of the DPRK refused to allow the relevant UN agencies (the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation) to carry out a crop and food assessment during October 2009 that would have established the outcome of the harvest. The Government of the DPRK has said that the harvest last year was 7 per cent. larger than 2008, but this figure cannot be confirmed.

The World Food Programme estimates that 8 million inhabitants of the DPRK do not have enough food for a basic standard of living and that chronic malnutrition continues to be a major concern.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310846]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code respectively.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are classed as key workers eligible for assistance with housing costs in Staffordshire. [310469]

John Healey: We do not hold data on how many people are classed as key workers and eligible for assistance with housing costs in Staffordshire.

Data on the number of key workers in Staffordshire will be held by the relevant employers of key workers. A full list of eligible key worker roles for the homebuy scheme can be found in the Capital Funding Guide on the Homes and Communities Agency's website at:

http://cfg.homesandcommunities.co.uk/kwl-applicant-eligibility.htm

The homebuy scheme enables first time buyers with a household income of less than £60,000, who cannot afford to purchase without assistance, to buy a share of a home and get a first step on the housing ladder. Key workers are a priority group for this scheme.

Fires: Injuries

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people rescued from fires by the fire service in each *(a)* fire brigade area and *(b)* region were (i) injured and (ii) uninjured in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [311311]

Mr. Malik: The number of people injured and rescued from fires by fire and rescue service personnel are shown in the table for 2006-08 by fire authority and by region.

The number of people rescued but uninjured are recorded, but under the system which ran until March 2009, full details of incidents for only one in five of incidents that did not involve injuries were input to central databases. It has been shown that, due to this methodology, estimates of numbers rescued derived from data held centrally are unreliable below national level.

Non-fatal casualties in fires rescued by FRS personnel, FRS area and region, England, 2006-08

Region and FRS	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
England	2,422	2,170	2,152
North West	455	352	378
Cheshire	28	16	32
Cumbria	22	26	18
Greater Manchester	230	177	199
Lancashire	93	46	82
Merseyside	82	87	47
North East	168	160	100
Cleveland	38	21	25

Non-fatal casualties in fires rescued by FRS personnel, FRS area and region, England, 2006-08

Region and FRS	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Durham	39	33	12
Northumberland	6	5	4
Tyne and Wear	85	101	59
Yorks and Humberside	324	273	253
Humberside	69	74	47
North Yorkshire	26	20	21
South Yorkshire	95	86	64
West Yorkshire	134	93	121
West Midlands	152	159	138
Hereford and Worcestershire	12	19	20
Shropshire	8	18	7
Staffordshire	24	43	29
Warwickshire	20	3	6
West Midlands	88	76	76
East Midlands	166	128	177
Derbyshire	28	29	33
Leicestershire	30	24	22
Lincolnshire	24	21	39
Northamptonshire	17	11	10
Nottinghamshire	67	43	73
East	196	196	189
Bedfordshire	38	22	38
Cambridgeshire	26	32	17
Essex	34	50	41
Hertfordshire	47	28	41
Norfolk	33	54	38
Suffolk	18	10	14
South West	181	198	177
Avon	45	44	28
Cornwall	7	20	23
Devon	59	75	66
Dorset	2	5	7
Gloucestershire	9	9	14
Somerset	18	21	10
Wiltshire	41	24	29
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
South East	283	249	280
Berkshire	30	24	31
Buckinghamshire	24	22	10
East Sussex	24	56	69
Hampshire	88	55	60
Isle of Wight	1	2	3
Kent	43	37	43
Oxfordshire	10	9	25
Surrey	36	16	19
West Sussex	27	28	20
London	497	455	460

[1] Q1 2008 data have been revised since earlier publication.

Source:

DCLG Fire Statistics: Ref: 2010005c (2006-08).sas 15 January 2010.

Government Departments: Energy

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the level of compliance with the requirement to provide display energy certificates in Government buildings over 1,000 square metres in size; and if he will make a statement. [310667]

John Healey: Information about the number of Government buildings that have Display Energy Certificates can be found on the Office of Government Commerce website at the following address:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Data_Sept09.xls

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of Government buildings have a G rating in their display energy certificates; and if he will make a statement. [310626]

John Healey: Information about the number of Government buildings that have Display Energy Certificates, including the proportion that have a G rating, can be found on the Office of Government Commerce website at the following address:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Data_Sept09.xls

Housing: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home information packs have been issued in the London borough of Bexley since their introduction. [310689]

John Healey: The Department does not have a record of the number of HIPs produced. As HIPs must include an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), we can estimate their number on the basis of the number of EPCs lodged on the EPC Register.

There were 6,901 EPCs lodged on the EPC Register between 1 August 2007 and 12 January 2010 for homes located in the London Borough of Bexley.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of key workers resident in the London borough of Bexley who are eligible for assistance with housing costs. [310693]

John Healey: We have made no estimate of the number of key workers residents in the London borough of Bexley who are eligible for assistance with housing costs.

Data on the number of key workers in the London borough of Bexley will be held by the relevant employers of key workers. A full list of eligible key worker roles for the homebuy scheme can be found in the Capital Funding Guide on the Homes and Communities Agency's website at:

http://cfg.homesandcommunities.co.uk/kwl-applicant-eligibility.htm

The homebuy scheme enables first time buyers with a household income of less than £60,000, who cannot afford to purchase without assistance, to buy a share of a home and get a first step on the housing ladder. Key workers are a priority group for this scheme.

Housing: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the proposed construction of 2,750 homes in the vicinity of Lytchett Minster, Dorset under the revised South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [310662]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Secretary of State's proposed changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) include an 'area of search' for 2,750 new homes at Lytchett Minster. Representations about this proposal, made during the public consultation between July and October 2008, will be taken into account before the Secretary of State decides on the final form of the RSS. Additional sustainability appraisal work is currently being undertaken, which will look at the areas of search proposed in the RSS. I expect that work to be completed in March.

It is not the role of the Secretary of State to allocate land for future development. This is a matter for local authorities to consider through their local development frameworks. It is also for the local authority to consider any planning application that arises in respect of development in the vicinity of Lytchett Minster.

Local Government: Inspections

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the comprehensive area assessment results dataset for each local authority. [311532]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The full Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) results dataset for each local authority and local area is held on the Oneplace website:

http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx

Planning Inspectorate: Fees and Charges

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the potential revenue to accrue to the Planning Inspectorate from planning appeal charges in their first full year of operation. [311512]

John Healey: The Planning Act 2008 provided powers to charge for planning appeals. However, I have decided that in view of the current economic circumstances, we should not impose an appeal charge at this time. In addition, I have considered the case for increasing planning fees generally but have decided that for the same reason it would be wrong at this time to increase the costs of those seeking to invest in housing and development. Planning fees will therefore remain at their current levels and we shall review them again in a year's time.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish a timetable for making his response to the *(a)* consultation and *(b)* further environmental assessment relating to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [310661]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government wish to be satisfied that the Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy tested reasonable alternatives to those areas of search for strategic housing, business and other development which were added or amended following consideration of the Examination-in-Public's Panel's report. Further work on Sustainability Appraisal has been commissioned and this is expected to take until March 2010.

If the Secretary of State decides to propose further changes, that will necessitate a further period of consultation on those changes and consideration of representations before the final RSS is published.

Social Rented Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there were in *(a)* private and *(b)* social housing stock in each London local authority in 2008-09; and what percentage change this represents in comparison with 2007-08. [311210]

Mr. Ian Austin: A table showing estimates made of the number of empty dwellings in each London local authority area in each tenure group for 2009, and the percentage change in comparison with 2008, has been placed in the House Library.

The London Plan

Mr. Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of his response to the Mayor of London's plan; and if he will make a statement. [311394]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the Government's response to the Mayor's London Plan in the Library of the House.

HEALTH

Baby Care Units

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is provided to maternity units on the provision of resuscitation cover for those units by a *(a)* paediatrician and *(b)* midwife trained in advanced resuscitation. [310357]

Ann Keen: The Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts requires as a minimum:

> "Resuscitation equipment that is available and ready for use at all times in all care settings where births occur: this must include the emergency department where there is one. A process for the availability of a clinician (doctors, advanced neonatal nurse practitioner, midwives) with advanced neonatal life support skills (including endotracheal intubation) at a delivery if required. A process for 24 hour availability in obstetric units, within 30 minutes, of a consultant paediatrician (or equivalent staff and associate specialist grade) trained and assessed as competent in neonatal advanced life support."

Brain Injuries: Prisoners

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has discussed in the Council of Ministers the policy of other EU member states on prisoners with acquired brain injuries; and if he will make a statement; [311490]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the proportion of the prison population with an acquired brain injury; and if he will make a statement; [311491]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of prisoners with an acquired brain injury; and if he will make a statement; [311493]

(4) what his policy is on the assessment of prisoners commencing a prison sentence for evidence of an acquired brain injury; and if he will make a statement. [311494]

Phil Hope: There have been no discussions in the Council of Ministers regarding the policy of other European Union member states relating to prisoners who have acquired brain injuries.

Since 2006, national health service primary care trusts have been responsible for commissioning health services for their offender health population. No research has been commissioned and evaluated on the proportion of the prison population who have acquired brain injury and no information is collected centrally on the number and proportion of prisoners who have acquired brain injury.

For prisoners commencing a prison sentence, Prison Service Order 0500 and subsequent Prison Service Instruction 27/2006 states that:

> First receptions into custody will have undergone an initial health assessment to determine any immediate health needs before they commence their first night in custody.
>
> The initial evidence based health assessment of first receptions will include a triage that must take place before the prisoner's first night, to primarily detect:
>
> (a) Immediate physical health problems
>
> (b) Immediate mental health problems
>
> (c) Significant drugs or alcohol abuse
>
> (d) Risk of suicide and/or self-harm.

As a follow up to this, they must also be given a general health assessment in the week immediately following reception, by an appropriately trained member of the health care team, in order to plan any subsequent care/treatment.

Bridlington and Scarborough Hospitals: Ambulance Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the effect on response times of ambulances travelling between Bridlington and Scarborough Hospital of snow and bad weather was in *(a)* December 2009 and *(b)* January 2010. [311110]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally. The latest available data for Yorkshire Ambulance Service response times are shown in the following table:

Ambulance emergency and urgent incidents: response times by ambulance service and category of call, 2008-09

	Category A calls				*Category B calls*	
Ambulance service	*Total number of incidents with emergency response (Thousand)*	*Response within 8 minutes (Percentage)*	*Total number of incidents with ambulance vehicle arriving (Thousand)*	*Response within 19 minutes (Percentage)*	*Total number of incidents with ambulance vehicle arriving (Thousand)*	*Response within 19 minutes (Percentage)*
England	1,940.7	74.3	1,934.7	96.9	2,553.3	91.0
Yorkshire	203.1	69.4	202.1	96.1	204.9	90.6

Notes:

1. Category A: presenting conditions, which may be immediately life threatening and should receive an emergency response within eight minutes irrespective of location in 75 per cent. of cases. Presenting conditions which require an ambulance vehicle capable of transporting the patient to attend the incident must receive that response within 19 minutes of the request for transport (being made by the initial responder or being identified by the call taker, whichever is earlier) in 95 per cent. of cases.

2. Category B: presenting conditions, which though serious are not immediately life threatening and must receive a response within 19 minutes in 95 per cent. of cases.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care.

Cancer: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust on cancer services in 2009. [310413]

Ann Keen: Information on the estimated expenditure on cancer and tumours by South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 2008-09 has been set out in the following table.

Estimated expenditure on cancer and tumours, South Staffordshire PCT

	£
2008-09	51,759,000

Notes:

1. The programme budgeting data collection is complex, therefore expenditure figures are best estimates rather than precise measurements. Year on year comparisons are not straightforward due to annual refinements to the data collection methodology and changes to underlying data sources.

2. Figures include expenditure across all sectors. Disease specific expenditure do not include expenditure on prevention, or general practitioner expenditure, but do include prescribing expenditure.

3. Source of data are annual PCT Programme Budgeting financial returns. Programme Budgeting data for 2006-07 to 2008-09 is published on the Department of Health website.

Source:

Annual PCT Programme Budgeting financial returns.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310527]

Phil Hope: The area and estimated value of vacant and occupied office space, owned and rented by the Department is as follows:

	Area square metres	*Estimated value/rent paid for leasehold properties (£)*
Owned		
Vacant	0	0
Occupied	24,483	72,350,000
Rented		
Vacant	19,500	2,922,500
Occupied	48,227	10,854,067

We do not have 'values' for our leasehold properties so the information above for rented accommodation relates to the rents paid.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309263]

Phil Hope: The Care Quality Commission has the power to issue fixed penalty notices (as an alternative to prosecution) under sections 86-87 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008. These sections provide for regulations to be made to set fixed penalty offences for offences under Part 1 of that Act.

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Registration of Regulated Activities) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009 No 660) set the penalty offences and their amounts (Schedule 1) in respect of the registration of certain NHS health care providers with the Care Quality Commission against requirements relating to health care associated infections. To date, the commission has not used this power.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for each such category of expenditure in 2009-10. [310757]

Phil Hope: The Department operates two main websites:

1. The Department's corporate website at:

www.dh.gov.uk

2. NHS Choices at:

www.nhs.uk

The figures provided are total external costs and do not include internal staff costs.

The costs for each website are:

Department of Health corporate website

	£
2007-08	
Strategy and planning:	328,520.86
Design and build	647,940.75
Hosting and infrastructure	549,313.75
Content provision	128,921.09
Testing and evaluation	381,770.00
Total	2,036,466.45
2008-09	
Strategy and planning:	300,925.00
Design and build	644,998.00
Hosting and infrastructure	599,870.75
Content provision	107,614.19
Testing and evaluation	381,770.00
Total	2,240,121.44
2009-10	
Strategy and planning:	420,098.00
Design and build	924,035.00
Hosting and infrastructure	585.600.00
Content provision	47,799.00
Testing and evaluation	554,420.00
Total	2,531,952.00

NHS Choices

	£
2007-08	
Strategy and planning:	3,291,659.57
Design and build	4,266,748.79
Hosting and infrastructure	1,871,933.81
Content provision	3,010,242.69
Testing and evaluation	1.236.993.29
Total	13,677,578.14
2008-09	
Strategy and planning:	8,764,040.54
Design and build	7,470,562.03
Hosting and infrastructure	3,169,335.95
Content provision	7,156,673.03
Testing and evaluation	1,300.208.47
Total	27,860,820.02
2009-10	
Strategy and planning:	5,845,541.38
Design and build	6,377,614.00
Hosting and infrastructure	2,610,803.31
Content provision	5,448,688.20
Testing and evaluation	1,023,417.78
Total	21,306,064.66

Since 27 June 2007 the Department has reduced the total number of websites that it operates from 196 to 71, to meets its obligations under Transformational Government. The Department will continue to reduce this number to just two websites by the Cabinet Office deadline of July 2011.

Given the high number of websites that were in existence between March 2007 and January 2010, it is not possible to provide information on costs for all of these, as this would incur disproportionate costs.

Direct Payments

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the number of people who are in receipt of a direct payment. [311577]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes information on the number of people receiving direct payments from councils with adult social services responsibilities.

Information is collected for clients aged 18 and over both during the year April to March and as at 31 March. The number of carers receiving direct payments is also collected during the year April to March. Provisional information for 2008-09 is the latest data available.

All 150 councils provided provisional information on the number of clients receiving direct payments.

86,100 social care clients (aged 18 and over) in England received a direct payment during the year 2008-09 and 68,600 social care clients were in receipt of direct payments as at 31 March 2009.

28,000 carers of adults aged 18 and over provided by 141 councils in England received a direct payment during the year 2008-09.

Final data for 2008-09 are expected to be published by the NHS Information Centre on 25 February 2010 (Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care data for clients) and in April 2010 (Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs Return 1 data for carers). This will incorporate revisions to the provisional data including the subsequent update of missing data items.

Disabled: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the number of people who are in receipt of an individual budget. [311578]

Phil Hope: The terms Individual Budget and Personal Budget were used synonymously during the pilot stage of the personalisation project. However, Personal Budget is the term now being used for national implementation and relates to social care funding only. Individual Budgets is now the term used for a notional amount of funding from a variety of sources which may include social care funding as well as other sources. The NHS Information Centre did not collect information on the number of Individual Budgets in 2008-09. However, information on the number of clients planned to receive services via Personal Budgets in 2008-09 was collected and this information has been provided to answer the question.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes information on the number of people receiving Personal Budgets from councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs).

Provisional data show that 13,800 social care service users (aged 18 and over) in 128 CASSRs were planned to receive services via a Personal Budget as at 31 March 2009. Over 100,000 people have benefited from personal budgets to date.

Final data for 2008-09 are expected to be published by the NHS Information Centre on 25 February 2010.

Drugs: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Preston are receiving treatment for drug addiction. [310987]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally.

However, the total number of adults in drug treatment in Lancashire in 2008-09 was 5,004.

Note:

Data regarding drug treatment are not collected specifically for Preston.

Source:

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA).

General Practitioners: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices in the London borough of Bexley had extended opening hours in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [310694]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data were not collected in 1997 on number of general practitioner (GP) practices offering extended opening. Information last collected in July 2009 showed that 18 of the 29 GP practices in Bexley care trust (62.1 per cent.) had extended opening hours, offering their patients access to routine appointments. We expect this to continue to increase.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will reverse the decision to discontinue the reciprocal health arrangements between the NHS and the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [311112]

Gillian Merron: We are not minded to reverse the decision to end the current bilateral health care agreement with the Isle of Man, which was taken on economic grounds, as it does not represent value for money to the United Kingdom taxpayer.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the Isle of Man Government on his Department's decision on the discontinuance of reciprocal health arrangements between the NHS and the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010; if he will meet Members of the House of Keys to discuss the decision; and if he will make a statement. [311113]

Gillian Merron: Following representation from the Isle of Man Government, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is due to meet with a delegation from the Isle of Man Government on 19 January 2010.

Health Services: Youth Custody

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of young people were not given an initial physical and mental health assessment within five days of entering custody in 2009. [310790]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally. Since 2006, national health service primary care trusts have been responsible for commissioning health services for their offender health population.

Prison Service Order 0500 and subsequent Prison Service Instruction 27/2006 states that:

> First receptions into custody will have undergone an initial health assessment to determine any immediate health needs before they were locked up for their first night.
>
> The initial evidence based health assessment of first receptions will include a triage that must take place before the prisoner's first night, to primarily detect:
>
> immediate physical health problems
>
> immediate mental health problems
>
> significant drugs or alcohol abuse
>
> risk of suicide and/or self-harm.

As a follow up to this, they must also be given a general health assessment in the week immediately following reception, by an appropriately trained member of the health care team, in order to identify any existing health problems and to plan any subsequent care/treatment.

All services provided in Her Majesty's prisons are inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons. Their inspection document 'Expectations—Criteria for Assessing the Conditions in Prisons and the Treatment of Prisoners' records the standards for first and second reception health screening. These standards are covered under Primary Care—section 4 points 27 and 28.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for out-patient operations in each year since 1997. [310463]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The median waiting times for in-patient admissions and out-patient appointments is shown in the table.

Information on the average waiting time for out-patient operations is not collected centrally. While some procedures might take place in out-patients, when an operation is required this will most likely be in an in-patient setting either as a day case or overnight admission.

The in-patient/out-patient waiting times data do not indicate what treatment the patient received.

Median waiting time (weeks)

	Patients still waiting at period end		*Patients seen during the quarter*
Period ending:	*In-patient*	*Out-patient*	*Out-patient*
March 1997	13.2	n/a	n/a
June 1997	13.6	n/a	6.3
March 1998	14.9	n/a	6.4
March 1999	12.9	n/a	7.0
March 2000	12.9	n/a	7.7
March 2001	12.6	n/a	7.5
March 2002	12.7	n/a	7.6
March 2003	11.9	n/a	7.4
March 2004	10.2	n/a	7.1
March 2005	8.5	4.8	7.0
March 2006	7.3	3.7	6.1
March 2007	6.2	3.2	5.2
March 2008	4.5	2.6	n/a
March 2009	4.0	2.4	n/a
November 2009	4.2	2.8	n/a

Notes:

1. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the general practitioner to first out-patient appointment to the consultant.
2. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit to admission.
3. Out-patient commissioner data only available from June 1997.
4. Full out-patient waiting list only available from 2004-05, hence no median available on this basis before then.
5. Out-patient waiting times on a 'seen' basis ceased in September 2007.
6. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the average wait.

Source:

Department of Health QM08R, QFO1 and monthly monitoring collections

Influenza: Milton Keynes

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were administered *(a)* swine influenza vaccines and *(b)* seasonal influenza vaccines by the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust in 2008-09. [311097]

Gillian Merron: The total numbers of doses of swine and seasonal influenza vaccines administered by the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT) in the 2008-09 seasonal influenza immunisation programme and up to 30 November 2009 in the 2009-10 seasonal and swine influenza immunisation programmes are given in the following table.

For seasonal influenza, a single dose of vaccine is given therefore, the figures equate to the number of people vaccinated. For swine influenza vaccine, most, but not all, people are given a single dose of vaccine (some are given two doses of vaccine). Therefore, the total number of people vaccinated will be a little less than the number of doses given (data on the number of people vaccinated are not yet available).

	2008-09[1]	*2009-10*[2]
Seasonal influenza vaccine	[3]30,011	[4,5]29,000
Swine influenza vaccine		[4,5]5,500

[1] Figures up to the end of the immunisation programme (31 January 2009).

[2] Provisional figures collected part-way through the immunisation programmes (data available up to 30 November 2009).

[3] Excludes vaccination of health care workers (HCWs) in Milton Keynes PCT for which there are no data.

[4] Includes vaccination of HCWs in Milton Keynes PCT.

[5] Approximate

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether steps have been taken to implement the new minimum target for the national health service of 14 days to transfer a prisoner with acute, severe mental illness to an appropriate health care facility. [311221]

Phil Hope: The cross-government delivery plan "Improving Health, Supporting Justice" published in November 2009, sets out the intention to introduce a 14-day transfer process for prisoners with acute, severe mental disorder under section 47 and section 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

The Department has set up a prison transfer project to lead on the implementation of 14-day transfers. A national expert advisory group has been established to support the work of the project. This group comprises key stakeholders from the Her Majesty's Prison Service, the national health service, The Royal College of Nursing, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Mentally Ill: Young Offenders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the recommendation of Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or disabilities in the criminal justice system for a review to examine the potential for early intervention and diversion for children and young people with mental health problems or learning difficulties who have offended or who are at risk of offending. [310994]

Phil Hope: "Healthy Children, Safer Communities—A strategy to promote the health and well-being of children and young people in contact with the youth justice system" was published on 8 December 2009.

While this cross-government strategy sets out a wide vision for improving the health and well-being of children and young people in contact with the Youth Justice System (YJS), it also addresses the three recommendations about children in Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system.

In relation to Lord Bradley's third recommendation for children, work is under way (under the Offender Health children and young people programme in the Department) to examine the potential for early intervention and diversion. This work will continue and will be overseen by the Healthy Children, Safer Communities Programme Board.

It includes evaluation of the Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion pilots and development of guidance arising from this strategy. In addition, a detailed paper about the health needs of children in contact with the YJS will be placed on the Department's website alongside the strategy in the first quarter of this year, followed at a later date by a paper on the evidence base for effective interventions. This paper will be linked to the guidance mentioned above.

A copy of the "Healthy Children, Safer Communities" strategy has already been placed in the House Library.

Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust: Hospital Wards

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* mixed-sex and *(b)* single-sex wards there are in Mid Essex NHS Trust hospitals. [310738]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish an independent inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 into the operation of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. [311278]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No. An independent inquiry chaired by Robert Francis QC is currently examining evidence relating to the operation of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health announced its establishment to the House on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 123-25W. The inquiry is due to report its findings to us by the end of this month.

Midwives: South East

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives were in post at each hospital providing maternity services in the South East in each of the last five years. [310434]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: number of full-time equivalent midwives in each specified strategic health authority area by organisation as at 30 September each year

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	1,312	1,320	1,325	1,382	1,413
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	77	84	80	88	90
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	154	155	157	159	163
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	73	73	65	76	85
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	175	178	183	191	201
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	143	144	148	148	138
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	106	116	121	127	127
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	146	143	145	140	142
Medway NHS Trust	121	116	116	117	115
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1	1	—	—	—
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	79	72	76	76	82
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	66	61	66	72	78
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	102	106	89	112	116
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	70	71	79	77	77

National health service hospital and community health services: number of full-time equivalent midwives in each specified strategic health authority area by organisation as at 30 September each year

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1,248	1,187	1,145	1,255	1,301
Isle of Wight Healthcare Primary Care Trust (PCT)	44	46	46	46	44
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	101	104	116	121	132
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	88	42	3	76	91
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	162	142	134	152	145
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	179	179	154	164	160
Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	122	119	129	138	143
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	71	70	75	80	87
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	65	62	61	62	70
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	251	254	255	253	264
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	166	168	172	164	163

Notes:

1. Some individual trusts' figures may in some years be subject to data quality issues. All figures are validated and signed off by trusts prior to publication.
2. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. '—' zero.
4. Data Quality. Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS information centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Monitor: Directors

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paid directors are on the board of Monitor. [311103]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the executive chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that there are currently five paid directors on the board of Monitor. The board comprises of the executive chairman and four non-executive board members.

Further information on the structure and remuneration of Monitor's board can be found in their Annual Reports and Accounts for 2008-09 which is available at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk

Monitor: Operating Costs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the running costs of Monitor headquarters were in the latest year for which information is available. [311104]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the executive chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that in 2008-09 the total operating expenditure for Monitor was £14,646,000; comprising staff costs of £8,036,000 and other operating expenses of £6,610,000.

Further details of Monitor's operating expenditure for 2008-09 can be found in their annual report and accounts at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk

Monitor: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the chief executive of Monitor received in *(a)* salary and *(b)* expenses in the latest year for which information is available. [311102]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the executive chairman of Monitor that in 2008-09 he received a salary payment of £235,647, which included a 5.5 per cent. non-consolidated payment of £12,001 and £16,361 in business-related expenses.

NHS: Early Retirement

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much each *(a)* primary care trust, *(b)* hospital trust and *(c)* mental health trust spent on early retirement for members of the trust board in each of the last three years; [310797]

(2) how much each *(a)* primary care trust, *(b)* hospital trust and *(c)* mental health trust spent on early retirement for staff employed by the organisation in each of the last three years. [310798]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the form requested. The total premature retirement costs including the cost of paying pensions and lump sum early, enhancements of lump sum and enhanced service after normal retirement age are set out in the following table.

£000

	Premature retirement costs	
	Prefunded (one-off capitalised costs)	*Quarterly recharge*
2006-07	162,578	64,742
2007-08	198,567	62,732
2008-09	73,755	90,164

Source:

NHS Pension Scheme and NHS Compensation for Premature Retirement Scheme Resource Accounts.

NHS: Finance

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the amount of money donated to NHS institutions through charitable giving. [310033]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09, national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England received contributions from all charitable sources totalling £62 million in expenditure and £65 million in assets. The Department does not collect this information for NHS foundation trusts who report directly to Monitor.

NHS: Interpreters

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on interpreters in each of the last five years. [311396]

Ann Keen: National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

NHS: South East

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* managers and *(b)* senior managers were in post at each hospital trust in the South East in each of the last five years. [310433]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services, number of full-time equivalent senior managers and managers in hospital trusts in each specified strategic health authority area as at 30 September each year

	2004			2005			2006		
	All managers	*Senior managers*	*Managers*	*All managers*	*Senior managers*	*Managers*	*All managers*	*Senior managers*	*Managers*
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	1,278	393	885	1,064	281	783	970	293	677
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	85	21	64	97	22	75	87	26	61
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	141	14	127	132	16	116	125	22	104
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	34	15	19	37	17	21	40	19	21
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	93	6	87	91	15	76	82	15	67
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	98	20	79	89	19	70	77	23	53
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	52	13	39	56	18	38	47	19	28
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	159	16	142	134	18	116	145	27	118
Medway NHS Trust	50	34	16	57	39	18	54	34	19
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	33	22	12	36	11	25	26	12	14
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	79	20	59	80	19	61	71	17	54
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	52	24	28	50	26	24	50	22	28
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	185	141	44	83	38	45	91	41	50
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	33	8	25	31	7	25	26	4	22
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1,316	393	923	1,372	330	1,042	1,392	322	1,070

National health service hospital and community health services, number of full-time equivalent senior managers and managers in hospital trusts in each specified strategic health authority area as at 30 September each year

	2004			2005			2006		
	All managers	*Senior managers*	*Managers*	*All managers*	*Senior managers*	*Managers*	*All managers*	*Senior managers*	*Managers*
Isle of Wight Healthcare Primary Care Trust	65	23	42	75	22	53	64	19	45
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	42	4	38	47	4	44	47	5	42
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	126	118	8	136	43	93	130	37	93
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	55	12	43	52	13	39	57	19	38
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	123	50	72	161	48	113	162	44	117
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	190	6	184	186	11	175	212	4	208
Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	86	21	66	94	38	56	105	41	64
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	124	21	104	107	22	85	112	20	93
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	73	33	40	69	30	39	70	43	26
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	262	49	212	260	43	217	268	31	237
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	100	40	60	112	44	68	117	47	70

	2007			2008		
	All managers	*Senior managers*	*Managers*	*All managers*	*Senior managers*	*Managers*
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	944	246	698	1,015	231	784
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	66	9	58	79	5	74
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	139	20	120	152	20	132
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	53	19	34	64	19	45
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	87	15	72	93	16	77
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	76	22	54	83	21	61
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	48	18	29	48	18	30
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	157	28	129	168	31	137
Medway NHS Trust	55	33	22	56	25	31
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	26	12	14	20	7	13
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	65	16	49	63	18	45
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	45	24	22	44	20	24
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	43	16	27	58	17	41
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	36	6	30	54	8	46
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1,436	356	1,080	1,566	439	1,126
Isle of Wight Healthcare Primary Care Trust	67	9	58	65	9	56

	2007			2008		
	All managers	*Senior managers*	*Managers*	*All managers*	*Senior managers*	*Managers*
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	42	7	36	40	10	30
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	130	40	91	135	54	81
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	61	18	43	55	23	32
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	191	36	155	227	79	148
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	218	6	212	245	8	237
Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	105	39	66	123	41	82
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	107	19	87	96	15	82
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	71	51	20	92	59	33
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	229	20	209	237	23	214
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	107	44	63	132	46	87

Note:
Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source:
The NHS Information centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310855]

Gillian Merron: None.

Social Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities primarily purchase their social care services through *(a)* block and *(b)* spot purchasing; and if he will make a statement. [311576]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally. Local authorities are free to determine how best to purchase or arrange social care services to meet local need.

Statins

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on *(a)* prescription of statins and *(b)* the side effects of statins. [310637]

Ann Keen: The Department has not received any formal representations about the prescription of statins or the side effects of statins from any organisations or individuals.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the prescription of statins to *(a)* women, *(b)* men aged 55 and over and *(c)* patients with a 20 per cent. or lower risk of heart disease. [310640]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the use of medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic tests and clinical and surgical procedures within the national health service.

In January 2006, NICE published the guidance, "Statins for the prevention of cardiovascular events" which relates to the initiation of statin therapy in adults with clinical evidence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) or in adults considered to be at risk of CVD. In May 2008, NICE published the guideline, "Lipid modification—Cardiovascular risk assessment and the modification of blood lipids for the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease". This guideline covers adults at higher risk of CVD such as smokers and people with high blood pressure.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been prescribed statins in each of the last 10 years. [310695]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of patients prescribed a medicine is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of prescription items for statins, written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community, in England, in each of last available 10 years. Statins are defined as atrovastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin and ezetmibe.

	Items dispensed (Thousand)
1999	6,989.6
2000	9,423.0
2001	12,600.8
2002	16,663.0
2003	21,635.1
2004	28,110.3
2005	33,771.7
2006	39,800.6
2007	44,576.0
2008	48,717.0

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

Supported Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on placing people in *(a)* sheltered accommodation and *(b)* accommodation with wardens. [311544]

Phil Hope: The Department does not issue guidance to local authorities (LAs) on placing people in sheltered accommodation.

Under section 47 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, LAs have a duty to assess the needs of any person for whom the authority may provide or arrange the provision of community care services and who may be in need of such services. LAs have a further duty to decide, having regard to the results of the assessment, what, if any, services they should provide to meet the individual's needs.

These decisions should be taken in consultation with service users and/or their representatives. There are no set or defined levels of need which will automatically determine the care settings, such as sheltered accommodation, in which service users are placed.

Surgery: Technology

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been funded by the NHS to be treated using the CyberKnife Robotic Radiosurgery System *(a)* in the private sector in England and *(b)* overseas since the treatment was introduced. [310791]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many CyberKnife Robotic Radiosurgery Systems are established in the NHS. [310792]

Ann Keen: There are currently no Cyberknife Robotic Radiosurgery Systems in the national health service. A private centre is in place at The CyberKnife Centre in Harley Street, London.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has had discussions with *(a)* patient groups and *(b)* others on the applicability of the tariff for radiotherapy to hypofractionated stereotactic high-precision radiotherapy. [310793]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is no national tariff for radiotherapy. Reimbursement for radiotherapy services is therefore subject to local negotiation between providers and commissioners.

Swine Flu

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on preparations for a possible swine influenza pandemic in the last three years. [310839]

Gillian Merron: The spend to date on pandemic influenza preparedness (not swine flu specific) is about £500 million. Additional spend committed around the time of the start of the swine flu pandemic takes the amount to over £1 billion. We are not able to break down this number due to confidentiality clauses in our contracts with the various manufacturers.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value is of the NHS stock of swine influenza vaccine. [310840]

Gillian Merron: As of 3 January 2010, the total amount of vaccine delivered to the United Kingdom was 23.9 million doses of the GlaxoSmithKline vaccine, Pandemrix, and 5.0 million doses of the Baxter vaccine, Celvapan.

The Department is unable to divulge the monetary value of this stock as it would violate confidentiality clauses in the contracts with the manufacturers.

Vauxhall

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310331]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have put in place a programme of NHS investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the UK. There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Vauxhall constituency.

For example:

At the end of November 2009, the total number of people waiting more than 26 weeks for inpatient treatment within Lambeth Primary Care Trust (PCT) has fallen to 0, from 1,512 in June 2002.

At the end of November 2009, the total number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for outpatient treatment within Lambeth PCT has fallen to 0, from 954 in June 2002.

In June 2003, at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, 82.4 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency (A&E) from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. Figures for September 2009 show an improvement to 98.4 per cent.

In June 2003, at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, 93.8 per cent., of patients spent less than four hours in A&E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. Figures for September 2009 show an improvement to 98.3 per cent.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 140 to 408. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of nurses has increased from 1,595 to 2,507.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 339 to 432. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of nurses has increased from 2,158 to 3,597.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Lambeth PCT has increased from 67.7 to 91.9.

92.7 per cent., of urgent GP referrals to King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, with suspected cancer, are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

95.9 per cent., of urgent GP referrals to Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, with suspected cancer, are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Gracefield Gardens health and social care centre in Streatham is one of London's first polyclinics, providing faster, more convenient high quality health services to the people of Lambeth.

There are three new private finance initiative and capital funded hospital schemes in the area which includes a £72 million scheme at Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust which opened in November 2006; a £50 million scheme at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust which opened in October 2005; and a £76 million scheme at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust which opened in October 2002.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable has been established for the implementation of the boiler scrappage scheme; what homes will be eligible; and whether local authorities are required to participate in the scheme. [311548]

Mr. Kidney: The Boiler Scrappage Scheme was launched for applications on 5 January, with the first vouchers being distributed from the week commencing 18 January. The scheme is open to householders, private landlords or their tenants in England who seek to replace a working G rated or worse boiler with an A rated boiler or a renewable heating technology. Full eligibility criteria can be found on:

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Local authorities are not required to participate in the scheme. The scheme is due to run until the sum of money allocated to the scheme (£50 million) is spent.

Carbon Emissions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which is directly attributable to human activity. [310487]

Joan Ruddock: According to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, pre-industrial carbon dioxide concentrations (just prior to 1750) were around 280 parts per million (ppm). In 2009, according to the World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases, carbon dioxide concentrations were at 387 ppm. Based on these figures, the proportion of carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere which can be attributed to human activity is around 28 per cent. of today's atmospheric concentrations.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members were of the UK delegation to Copenhagen for the UN Climate Change Conference. [310742]

Joan Ruddock: The final official UK delegation to Copenhagen for the UN Climate Change Conference comprised the following individuals:

Ed Miliband
Joan Ruddock
Will Cavendish
Pete Betts
Jan Thompson
Aaron Gould
Adrian Butt
Adrian Roberts
Aled Williams
Alice Kehoe
Alon Carmel
Amy Sullivan
Anastasia Theodorou
Ashley Ibbett
Charlotte Coles
Dagmar Droogsma
Dan Yeo
David Armstrong
David Warrilow
Debbie Dickinson
Emma Williams
Esther Blythe
Faye O'Connor
Hannah Ryder
Harriet Bristow
Helen Stokes
Ames Davey
Jim Penman
John Ashton
Jon Townley
Jos Wheatley
Katie Elliott
Kaveh Guilanpour
Laura Johansen
Libby Townshend
Liz Kitchen
Mads Libergren
Martin Hession
Mel Speight
Mike Cork
Neil McMurdo
Nick Archer
Nick Turton
Nina Roney
Philip Dufty
Philip Wright
Polly Billington
Rachel Ash
Robin Gwynn
Shivani Katyal
Shruti Dudhia
Sinjini Mukherjee
Siobhan Stanger
Soheila Amin-Hanjani
Steve Cornelius
Tom Restrick

This does not include my right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister and the delegation from No 10.

Coastal Areas

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the area of land in the UK which would be lost in circumstances in which sea levels rose by *(a)* 20 centimetres, *(b)* 50 centimetres, *(c)* one metre and *(d)* two metres. [310088]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Foresight Future Flooding study published in 2004 looked at future risks of flooding and coastal erosion for four different futures over a 100 year period. These "futures" embodied different socio-economic and climate change scenarios with associated assumptions with respect to sea level rise, but they do not correspond to sea levels. No estimate of land loss was made as this would depend on a number of variables. These include the effect of other climate change impacts such as increased storminess, as well as policy and investment on flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Departmental Advertising

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse was of his Department's 'Bedtime Story' advertisements. [308699]

Joan Ruddock: The cost of the climate literacy campaign (including the television adverts known as 'Bedtime Story') which formed part of the Department's Act on CO_2 initiative is budgeted at approximately £5.75 million. This includes production and media costs and creative development research. The climate literacy campaign phase began in October 2009 and ends January 2010.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310530]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not own any office property and has no vacant space. For the buildings it occupies (Whitehall Place, London and Atholl House, Aberdeen) the amount of occupied space is 10,900 square metres. The current annual cost of this space is £4,379,000.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned destination of each such visit was. [311580]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1045W.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing from departmental networked computers. [310244]

Joan Ruddock: The Department runs specialist software to block access to all categories of websites which do not conform with our security operating procedures or would be considered a network security risk. It is not possible to produce a list of the websites as they run into millions globally and come and go daily.

Departmental Training

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 to date. [311631]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 737W.

Energy: Infrastructure

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for how long public consultation on his Department's draft national policy statements for energy infrastructure will run. [311644]

Mr. Kidney: The consultation on the draft national policy statements for energy infrastructure will run for 15 weeks. It began on 9 November 2009 and closes on 22 February 2010. This is three weeks longer than the minimum time for a consultation set out in Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation to take into consideration the Christmas holiday period.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on responding to complaints arising from consultations on draft national policy statements for energy infrastructure. [311645]

Mr. Kidney: Our policy is to consider any complaint regarding consultations, including the consultation on the draft national policy statement for energy infrastructure, very carefully and respond in an appropriate and timely manner.

Government Departments: Energy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Government Departments have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been awarded a grant to fund carbon saving initiatives. [311214]

Joan Ruddock: Grant funding provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change for carbon saving initiatives in Government Departments in 2009-10 is as follows.

Funding is provided through the Low Carbon Technology Programme for central Government Departments, and their agencies that report on carbon emissions as part of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate framework. Grants have been made to fund technologies that reduce carbon emissions from buildings and transport. 12 Departments applied for funding in 2009-10 and 12 have been allocated funding.

Through the Salix Finance scheme, Government Departments are able to apply for a repayable grant for energy efficiency technologies. The financial savings from the energy efficiency measures are paid back to HM Treasury, up to the level of the grant. In 2009-10, six Departments submitted applications to Salix. All of these applications were accepted, although one Department has since withdrawn its application.

Met Office

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information the Met Office Hadley Centre uses to predict future temperature changes. [310483]

Joan Ruddock: The Met Office Hadley Centre uses complex computer models of the atmosphere, land and ocean systems to make predictions of future climate change, including temperature. These models are mathematical representations of the climate system and are based on the fundamental laws of physics.

The models are tested and evaluated against actual observations on a number of time scales, ranging from palaeoclimate to day to day weather. Model performance and improvement is aided because the Met Office uses the same model framework for its climate projections as it does for weather forecasting.

In addition to its own models, the Met Office Hadley Centre makes use of climate models from the global scientific community. These are used for comparison and can aid improvement to Met Office models. The methods employed in the development of Met Office models are thoroughly and independently reviewed in the peer-reviewed literature.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310847]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has no plans for attendance by its Ministers or officials.

Rain Forests: Guyana

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what response the Government has made to the offer by the President of Guyana for the Government to take responsibility for that country's rainforest; and if he will make a statement. [311309]

Joan Ruddock: The UK welcomed the offer by the President of Guyana to keep their forests standing. We recognised that Guyana needs to reconcile development challenges with the need to keep forests standing in order to help in the fight against climate change. It is essential that Guyana is supported with sufficient incentives to maintain the services that its rainforests provide. The UK was therefore pleased to hear that Guyana has reached an agreement on support for their forest services with the Government of Norway.

Ahead of the Copenhagen Accord, the UK together with the US, Japan, Australia, France and Norway committed to provide $3.5 billion public finance for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) over the period 2010-12 and to scaling it up thereafter.

At Copenhagen, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Sarkozy reaffirmed that $25 billion is needed for a 25 per cent. reduction in emissions from deforestation by 2015, and that developed countries should pay a significant proportion of this. These announcements were strongly welcomed by rainforest countries including Guyana, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica.

We will continue to work with donors and rainforests nations in preparation for the reconvened climate negotiations in Mexico later this year, to ensure REDD+ continues to be a central element of climate change negotiations.

Wind Farms: Finance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy an[illegible]e Change what financial support his Department [illegible]kes available for the development of *(a)* onshore and *(b)* offshore wind farms. [311573]

Mr. Kidney: The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's main mechanism for the financial support of renewable electricity. Developers of renewable technologies, including wind, receive Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) for the electricity they generate. Suppliers can buy these certificates and present them to Ofgem to meet their annual obligation.

Wind plays an important role in the Government's energy policy and we recently announced an increase in RO support for offshore wind stations accredited between April 2010 and March 2014. This should ensure the industry has the confidence to continue to invest in this important technology.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sevenoaks

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to make a final decision on the proposed Academy for Sevenoaks. [310707]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* The DCSF received the signed Funding Agreement on 12 January. The Secretary of State will decide the proposal once he has considered all the information. This should be by the end of January.

Academies: Sponsorship

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what system his Department has in place to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* assess the performance of academy sponsors in improving the (i) Ofsted status and (ii) number of examination passes in academies. [311243]

Mr. Coaker: The performance of academy sponsors is monitored and assessed through the performance of their academies. The Department has a rigorous range of measures to achieve this, including education advisers, School Improvement Partners (SIPs) and where appropriate National Challenge Advisers. All of these professionals provide challenge and support to academies, help the academy leaders to evaluate their own performance, identify priorities for improvement, and plan effective change. They report regularly to governors and the

Department. Where necessary, the frequency of visits to academies is increased and/or a tailored intervention programme is agreed.

The 2009 GCSE results show that the increase in the proportion of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths is 5.0 percentage points, double the average national increase. However, where an academy is not making satisfactory progress we have been clear that the Department will work closely with sponsors to secure whatever changes are necessary to accelerate progress. This may include a change of leadership, a new partnership with a successful strong academy, sponsor, partner or school.

Academies: Standards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's plans are for academy schools in the National Challenge category where fewer than 27 per cent. of pupils have achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics. [310395]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 January 2010]:* We expect all academies open for three or more years to have more than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics by 2011, or be making very strong progress with clear evidence that they will be above this benchmark very soon after. Where an academy is not making satisfactory progress the Department will work closely with sponsors to secure whatever changes are necessary to accelerate progress. This may include a change of leadership, a new partnership with a successful strong academy, sponsor, partner or school.

Children: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children there are with emotional, behavioural and social problems in Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency. [307164]

Mr. Coaker: This Department collects information on children who have special educational needs. For those pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of special educational need information is collected on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is provided in the table.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: number of pupils[4] with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties[5], January 2009, in Barnsley East and Mexborough parliamentary constituency.

	Number
Maintained primary	100
State-funded secondary	120
All special	10

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Headcount of solely registered pupils only.

[5] The statistics relate to those children whose primary specific special educational need is classified as behavioural, social and emotional difficulties. Only children at the School Action Plus provision category or with statements of SEN are categorised according to specific need in this way.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Children: Disabled

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met representatives of the True Colours Trust to discuss reducing levels of financial exclusion among disabled children's families; and what funding his Department is providing to the trust in 2009-10. [309986]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: DCSF does not fund the True Colours Trust and we have no record of the Secretary of State meeting with them. However, DCSF Ministers and officials do have regular meetings with the Every Disabled Child Matters Board, which is supported by the True Colours Trust to represent the interests of disabled children and their families.

Children's Rights Director of England

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons Ofsted does not publish the annual costs of the Office of the Children's Rights Director; and in respect of how many offices in Ofsted annual costs are not published. [309186]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 21 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted, as required by the rules governing the disclosure of remuneration for the most senior members of the organisation, discloses in its Resource Accounts the remuneration of the members of the Executive Board. The Children's Rights Director is not a member of the Executive Board and accordingly his remuneration is not disclosed.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children's Services: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding each unitary local authority allocated per head of population for children's services in 2009-10. [309686]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on how much was allocated by each unitary local authority for children's services per head of population in 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

Total net budget for unitary local authorities in England covering education, community, youth justice and children and young people's services: 2009-10

	£	*£ per head*
England	41,441,129,000	3,350
Unitary LAs	9,258,268,000	3,280
Bath and North East Somerset	131,341,000	3,220
Bedford	144,340,000	3,620
Blackburn with Darwen	139,948,000	3,220
Blackpool	117,785,000	3,480
Bournemouth	114,495,000	3,460

Total net budget for unitary local authorities in England covering education, community, youth justice and children and young people's services: 2009-10

	£	£ per head
Bracknell Forest	84,293,000	2,890
Brighton and Hove	190,243,000	3,560
Bristol	286,039,000	3,060
Central Bedfordshire	201,917,000	3,170
Cheshire East	255,559,000	3,030
Cheshire West and Chester	243,930,000	3,180
Cornwall	377,451,000	3,190
Darlington	74,207,000	3,030
Derby	203,003,000	3,390
Durham	395,445,000	3,420
East Riding of Yorkshire	246,916,000	3,280
Halton	105,750,000	3,430
Hartlepool	86,767,000	3,700
Herefordshire	118,131,000	2,960
Isle of Wight	107,132,000	3,500
Kingston upon Hull	224,771,000	3,620
Leicester	280,435,000	3,570
Luton	184,588,000	3,520
Medway	224,506,000	3,410
Middlesbrough	108,543,000	3,070
Milton Keynes	215,155,000	3,500
North East Lincolnshire	128,877,000	3,240
North Lincolnshire	123,794,000	3,210
North Somerset	142,746,000	3,000
Northumberland	247,062,000	3,610
Nottingham	245,455,000	3,520
Peterborough	162,817,000	3,770
Plymouth	212,136,000	3,620
Poole	98,711,000	3,210
Portsmouth	136,877,000	3,010
Reading	105,327,000	3,180
Redcar and Cleveland	119,466,000	3,560
Rutland	25,996,000	2,490
Shropshire	198,697,000	2,960
Slough	130,942,000	4,120
South Gloucestershire	185,383,000	2,960
Southampton	154,113,000	2,960
Southend-on-Sea	151,255,000	3,950
Stockton-on-Tees	157,166,000	3,300
Stoke-on-Trent	193,586,000	3,330
Swindon	146,146,000	3,110
Telford and Wrekin	128,893,000	3,010
Thurrock	127,624,000	3,160
Torbay	103,522,000	3,520
Warrington	149,784,000	3,140
West Berkshire	135,961,000	3,480
Wiltshire	340,084,000	3,010
Windsor and Maidenhead	104,366,000	2,860
Wokingham	123,389,000	3,060
York	115,406,000	2,730

Notes:

1. The figures for the total net budget covering education, community, youth justice and children and young people's services are drawn from unitary local authorities' 2009-10 Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection (Budget Table 1 line 8) submitted to the DCSF. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.

2. The per head figures are calculated by dividing the total net budget by the projected population aged 0 to 19 at mid-2009 in each LA. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and may not sum due to rounding. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities in England as at 12 January 2010.

Classroom Assistants: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent teaching assistants there were in schools in Preston in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [311234]

Mr. Coaker: There were 170 full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools in Preston constituency in January 1997 and 480 in January 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310534]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has the following office space.

	NIA sq m	*Value (£)*
Owned occupied	24,936	3,073,200
Leased occupied	61,550	16,592,796
Owned vacant	2,000	200,000
Leased vacant	1,323	72,720

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since its inception; and what the cost was of each. [307525]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To provide a response would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309883]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Ministerial visits are arranged on the basis that they are provisional and subject to parliamentary and Government business.

It is not normal practice for Government to report on cancelled visits. The Department does not hold the information to allow us to answer this question.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [302411]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Digital Communications Unit was created in 2008. The programme budget in the year 2008-09 was £12.5 million and in 2009-10 planned expenditure of £10.8 million.

The remit of the unit covers all online services from the Department including elements of Direct Gov, Teachers TV and essential e-mail communications and phone line support services to local authorities, regional government offices and to all schools.

The cost of maintaining/developing the Department's website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

is as follows:

2008/09—£1,009,484

2009/10—£515,415

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [303769]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is as follows:

In 2006-07, reimbursable expenses totalled £7,740

In 2007-08, reimbursable expenses totalled £10,042

In 2008-09, reimbursable expenses totalled £11,621

These reimbursable expenses are in large part due to the work of the four regional press officers, who frequently accompany Ministers on visits across the country.

These expenses also cover the costs of press officers being on duty at the weekends and cover the costs of purchasing newspapers and the rental of BT lines for work-related telephone calls made at the weekend and out of office hours in the evenings.

Departmental Research

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated to research related to children and families in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much it allocated to such research in 2008-09. [305301]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Overall, the Department expects to spend in the region of £33 million on research and evaluation in 2009-10. The figure for 2008-09 was £32 million. We are currently in the process of finalising our research and evaluation plans for 2010-11. Further details of our research and evaluation programme are set out in our Analysis and Evidence Strategy.

Education: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding has been allocated for capital expenditure on educational establishments in Staffordshire in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; [310470]

(2) how much was allocated for capital expenditure on education in Staffordshire in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* in each year since 2007. [310471]

Mr. Coaker: The following table sets out total school allocations to Staffordshire for the financial year 1996-97, and for the financial years 2006-07 to 2010-11.

	Total allocations (£ million)
1996-97	3.7
2006-07	61.9
2007-08	43.1
2008-09	38.6
2009-10	67.1
2010-11	35.3

The £61.9 million allocation in 2006-07 includes £23.0 million for an academy. The £67.1 million in 2009-10 includes £14.7 million advanced from 2010-11 as part of the Government's fiscal stimulus.

Capital funding is allocated to local authorities and schools who will prioritise how it is spent. This can be prioritised for direct capital expenditure such as classrooms, or for expenditure which is more of an establishment nature such as administration offices within schools. Records are not maintained centrally of the different types of expenditure.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* key stage 1, *(b)* key stage 2 and *(c)* key stage 3 pupils in each local authority are eligible for free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [310090]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 16 years received free *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school lunches in (i) England, (ii) Leicester and (iii) the East Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available. [311164]

Mr. Iain Wright: The available information on free school meals (FSM) is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1] [2] schools: school meal arrangements for pupils under 16[3] as at January 2009: in England, East Midlands Government Office Region and Leicester parliamentary constituency

	Primary schools[1]			State-funded secondary schools[1] [2]		
	Number of pupils[4]	Number of pupils eligible for FSM[5]	Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM	Number of pupils[4]	Number of pupils eligible for FSM[5]	Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM
England	4,077,350	653,600	16.0	2,883,770	418,000	14.5
East Midlands	351,320	45,350	12.9	256,150	29,730	11.6
Leicester	27,900	5,860	21.0	17,450	3,850	22.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and Academies.

[3] Pupils aged 15 and under at 31 August 2008.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Free School Meals: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in schools in Crewe and Nantwich constituency receive free school meals. [310067]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information is shown in the following table, together with the numbers of children eligible for free school meals.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1] [2] schools: school meal arrangements as at January 2009: in Crewe and Nantwich constituency

	Number on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals[4]	Percentage taking free school meals	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3] [4]	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Primary[1]	8,020	900	11.2	1,080	13.5
Secondary[1] [2]	6,280	450	7.2	660	10.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[4] Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the day of the census. Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

GCSE: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in Crewe and Nantwich constituency obtained five or more A* to C GCSE grades in each academic year since 1997. [310061]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given as follows. Data below local authority level for 2008/09 are not yet available.

Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools in Crewe and Nantwich constituency achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent[1] at grades A-C, 1996/07 to 2007/08[2]*

	Number of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C	Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C
2007/08	798	61.3
2006/07	667	53.3
2005/06	666	55.0
2004/05	682	55.2
2003/04	640	53.7
2002/03	626	55.0
2001/02	593	50.7
2000/01	560	48.6
1999/2000	559	48.5
1998/99	522	47.5
1997/98	549	50.8
1996/97	496	45.7

[1] From 1997/98 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[2] Figures for 2004/05 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15 years old at the start of the academic year.

Source:

National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables (final data).

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in *(a)* rural, *(b)* non-rural and *(c)* inner London schools in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [310542]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested for the academic years 2004/05 to 2007/08 is provided in the following table. The first year for which the requested information is available is 2004/05. School level data for 2008/09 are not yet available.

Pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools in (a) rural areas (excluding inner London), (b) non-rural areas (excluding inner London) and (c) inner London schools achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A-C including English and maths GCSEs, 2004/05 to 2007/08*

	Pupils eligible for FSM in rural schools (excluding inner London) in England		*Pupils eligible for FSM in non-rural schools (excluding inner London) in England*		*Pupils eligible for FSM in inner London schools*	
	Number of pupils	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths GCSEs*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths GCSEs*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths GCSEs*
2004/05	4,947	18.4	66,056	16.9	8,332	27.2
2005/06	4,969	21.3	63,751	18.2	8,432	30.7
2006/07	4,896	20.9	63,434	20.1	7,812	33.3
2007/08	4,736	22.7	61,724	22.3	7,900	37.2

Source:
National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables (final data)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what proportion of schools in each decile of the index of multiple deprivation less than 30 per cent. of pupils obtained five GCSEs including English and mathematics at A* to C grades in the *(a)* earliest and *(b)* most recent year for which figures are available. [310645]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2010]*: The information requested for the academic years 2004/05 and 2008/09 is provided in the following table:

Proportion of schools[1] in each Index of Multiple Deprivation decile[2] in which less than 30 per cent. of pupils[3] obtained five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A-C including English and maths GCSEs, 2004/05 and 2008/09*

		Percentage
IMD Decile2	*2004/05*	*2008/09*
0 to 10%—most deprived	63	25
10 to 20%	56	15
20 to 30%	40	15
30 to 40%	36	8
40 to 50%	29	9
50 to 60%	25	6
60 to 70%	19	3
70 to 80%	16	4
80 to 90%	11	3
90 to 100%—least deprived	5	1
All	29	8

[1] Including only those open maintained mainstream schools with results published in the relevant years Achievement and Attainment tables and with more than 10 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 on roll.

[2] 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation at Super Output Area level based on the location of the school.

[3] Pupils at the end of Key Stage

4. *Source:*
Achievement and Attainment Tables (2004/05 final data, 2008/09 revised data).

Headteachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to end the three hour limit on lesson observation by headteachers; and if he will make a statement. [310672]

Mr. Coaker: The statutory framework for performance management in England is provided by The Education (School Teacher Performance Management) (England) Regulations 2006, SI 2006 No. 2661.

The amount of observation that is planned and agreed should reflect and be proportionate to the needs of the individual teacher and reflect their individual circumstances. The regulations specify a limit of three hours in any review cycle for classroom observation. However, where evidence emerges which gives rise to concern about a teacher's teaching performance a revision meeting is held and additional classroom observations may be arranged. There are no plans to change these arrangements.

Health Education: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken to inform children in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools about diabetes. [311159]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Teaching about a healthier lifestyle is a major part of the framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) which schools deliver throughout all four key stages (5-16). As a consequence teachers are free to cover particular topics, such as diabetes or asthma, as part of their lesson plans if they feel it is appropriate. The Government have stated their intention to make the teaching of PSHE education statutory and provisions are contained with the Children, Schools and Families Bill which is currently being debated in the House of Commons.

Health Education: Sex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether sex and relationships guidance issued under Section 403 of the Education Act 1996 would apply to the teaching of understanding physical development health and well-being in primary schools under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [311025]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We plan to consult on revised guidance on sex and relationships education (SRE) shortly. The revised guidance is set within the current legislative framework, the statutory programmes of study for science and the non-statutory framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and Citizenship for key stages 1 and 2. It includes guidance on teaching primary school pupils about physical development and how to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle. Subject to the passage of the Bill, further guidance will be developed to support the implementation and delivery of statutory PSHE education in schools which will build upon, rather than replace this guidance.

Higher Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals applied to (i) a university and (ii) a Russell Group university in each year since 1997. [309185]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the free school meal status of applicants to higher education is not held centrally.

Home Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing and maintaining an annual register of home-educated children. [310288]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the October response to Graham Badman's "Review of Elective Home Education" and in the Impact Assessment (IA) published as part of the Children, Schools and Families Bill, we estimated that the cost of the registration and monitoring proposals for home-educated children would be around £21 million in the first year and £9.7 million in subsequent years, based on 25,000 home-educated children. We said at the time that the cost estimates for the Home Education proposals were subject to discussion with the Local Government Association (LGA) and would be reviewed in light of their comments.

We received the LGA's comments in December 2009 and we are now having further discussions with the LGA and local authorities to review our thinking on what should be included in the overall costs. We will also need to take into account the recommendations on costs arising from the 16 December Select Committee response. We plan to publish a revised IA as early as possible in January 2010.

We have already pledged to support in full the cost of these proposals and there has been no change to that position.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the state of relations between home educators and local authorities. [311284]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Graham Badman's Review of Elective Home Education in England identified excellent practice where local authorities have engaged in a proactive and supportive manner with home educating parents. His review also recognised that in some circumstances these relationships may be strained or non- existent.

If the registration and monitoring arrangements in the Children, Schools and Families Bill are to work well, local authority officers and others engaged in the monitoring and support of elective home education will need to be appropriately trained. This training must cover the essential differences, variation and diversity in home education practice, as compared with schools.

Our guidance on monitoring will also place an emphasis on supporting home educating families so that local authorities work collaboratively with home educating parents in providing the best possible arrangements for home educated children.

Home Education: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding he expects to be made available to support home educators in Coventry following the proposals made in the report of the Badman review of secondary education. [311283]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In October 2009, in our response to the Badman Review of Home Education, we published estimates of the overall costs of the monitoring and registration proposals (£21 million first year/£9.7 million ongoing) and for an additional support package for home-educating families (c.£21 million per annum). We have also published estimated costs in an impact assessment for the Children, Schools and Families Bill.

We are currently reviewing the estimated costs following discussion with the Local Government Association and in light of the recommendations rising from the Select Committee Inquiry on Home Education. A revised impact assessment will be issued shortly.

We do not have figures available yet for allocations below national level. We will develop detailed funding methodologies for local authority allocations in line with passage of the Bill and following additional discussions with the Local Government Association and local authorities.

Parenting Fund

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department has spent on Parents' Week in each year since it was established; [308971]

(2) which *(a)* public, *(b)* private and *(c)* voluntary sector organisations have received payments from the Parenting Fund in each year since 2004; and how much was paid in each case; [308973]

(3) how much PricewaterhouseCoopers has been paid for services associated with the Parenting Fund in each year since 2004; [308974]

(4) how much funding his Department has allocated to the Parenting Fund in each year since its inception. [308975]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Parents' week was first established in 2000 and is organised and delivered by the Family and Parenting Institute (FPI) in partnership with a number of national parenting support organisations. The week co-ordinates activities for parents and children across the UK with many hundreds of local events taking place. Each year there is a different theme. The theme of Parents' week 2009 was "The Changing Face of Families".

Since 2005, the Government have contributed funding to Parents' week through FPI's strategic grant.

The total amount of strategic grant received by FPI from DCSF is set out in table A. This strategic contribution enables FPI to provide a national platform to promote parenting and family support on a national level. As part of this, for Parents' week FPI provide guidance, information and support to local organisations and local authorities to run events across the country that celebrate parenting.

Table A

	Strengthening Families Grant Programme (£)	*Children, Young People and Families Grant (£)*
2005/06	783,000	—
2006/07	—	850,000
2007/08	—	973,000
2008/09	—	1,232,000

Direct costs from FPI strategic grant for Parents' week are set out in the following table.

	£
2000-01	19,972.57
2001-02	22,442.97
2002-03	38,110.82
2003-04	53,266.74
2004-05	100,031.02
2005-06	35,683.50
2006-07	64,144.00
2007-08	8,867.66
2008-09	6,769.97

No payments from the Parenting Fund (which is managed by FPI on behalf of Government) have been made to public organisations. The only private sector organisation to receive funding has been PricewaterhouseCoopers, as set out in the following table.

	£
2004-05	355,242
2005-06	334,574
2006-07	119,150
2007-08	0
2008-09	118,034
Total	997,000

Payments to voluntary sector organisations in receipt of Parenting Fund grants since 2004 have been placed in the House Libraries.

The following table sets out the total amount paid to a range of strategic voluntary organisations to support FPI with the delivery of the Parenting Fund contract.

Voluntary sector organisation	*Round 1: 2004-05*	*Round 1: 2005-06*	*Rounds 1 and 2: 2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Round 2: 2008-09*	*Round 2 and transition 2008-09*	*Total*
Parenting UK	—	—	76,504	—	41,497	—	118,001
AFCS	—	—	—	—	—	3,150	3,150
Family Action	—	—	—	—	—	46,000	46,000
Family Action	—	—	—	—	—	55,500	55,500
Fatherhood Institute	—	—	—	—	—	64,244	64,244
Families Need Fathers	—	—	—	—	—	36,000	36,000
Institute of Wellbeing	—	—	—	—	—	60,030	60,030
Institute of Wellbeing	—	—	—	—	—	60,813	60,813
OneplusOne	—	—	—	—	—	77,290	77,290
Marriage Care	—	—	—	—	—	60,000	60,000
REF	—	—	—	—	—	48,700	48,700
REF	—	—	—	—	—	48,700	48,700
TCCR	—	—	—	—	—	85,100	85,100
Relate	—	—	—	—	—	28,000	28,000
Total	—	—	76,504	—	41,497	673,527	791,528

Total DCSF funding allocated to the Parenting Fund since 2004 is set out in the following table.

	£ million
Round 1: 2004-06	16.4
Round 2: 2006-08	16
Transition round: 2008-09	8
Round 3: 2009-11	16

Total DCSF funding from the Parenting Fund for a range of telephone helplines since 2004 is set out in the following table.

	£ million
2003-04	[1]1.7
2004-06	4.6
2006-07	3
2007-08	3

	£ million
2008-09	3

[1] For 12 national organisations and helpline projects.

Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 728W, on pupil exclusion: disadvantaged, what the equivalent figures are for pupils on free school meals whose ethnicity is recorded as *(a)* white Irish, *(b)* white Traveller of Irish heritage, *(c)* white Gypsy/Roma and *(d)* any other white ethnicity. [311114]

Mr. Coaker: Information for 2007/08 is shown in the following table.

Primary, secondary and special schools,[1,2,3] number and percentage of pupil enrolments receiving one or more fixed period exclusions or a permanent exclusion by pupil characteristics[4]; England, 2007/08 (estimates)[5]

	Permanent exclusion[5]						*One or more fixed period exclusions*					
	Number of pupil enrolments eligible for free school meals[6]			*Percentage of applicable school population[7]*			*Number of pupil enrolments eligible for free school meals[6]*			*Percentage of applicable school population[7]*		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*
Irish[8]	20	[9]—	20	1.08	[9]—	0.61	240	90	330	11.75	4.83	8.42
Traveller of Irish heritage[8]	10	[9]—	10	0.98	[9]—	0.60	150	60	210	13.11	5.29	9.31
Gypsy/Roma[8]	20	10	30	1.02	0.39	0.71	270	100	370	14.70	5.89	10.40
Any other white background[8]	50	10	60	0.29	0.06	0.18	1,050	440	1,480	6.07	2.61	4.37

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or changed schools during the year.
[5] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[6] Free school meal eligibility as at the time of the January 2008 School Census.
[7] The number of pupil enrolments who received exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) by ethnic group, in January 2008.
[8] Includes pupils of compulsory school age and above only.
[9] Less than 5 or a rate based on less than 5.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Pupil Exclusions: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils from *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were permanently excluded in (i) Leeds West constituency and (ii) West Yorkshire in the 2008-09 academic year. [306616]

Mr. Coaker: Information on exclusions for the 2008-09 school year will be published in summer 2010.

Information on exclusions for the 2007/08 school year is provided in the table.

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary[1,2] number of pupil enrolments with permanent exclusions 2007/08 in Leeds West parliamentary constituency and West Yorkshire

	Primary[1]	*State-funded secondary[1,2]*
Leeds West[3]	0	10
West Yorkshire[4,5]	20	230

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Figures are as reported by schools and are known to be incomplete.
[4] West Yorkshire consists of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield local authorities.
[5] Estimates based on confirmed local authority figures.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Pupil Referral Units: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average per capita cost was of providing full-time education provision for a secondary school aged pupil in a pupil referral unit in Gloucestershire in 2008-09. [309378]

Mr. Coaker: Consistent financial reporting 2008-09 provides income and expenditure data across a wide range of categories on a consistent basis for all local authority maintained schools in England. The data underpin the Schools Financial Benchmarking website which provides schools with the tools to compare their income and expenditure profile with that of schools in similar circumstances so that they can make informed decisions on how to manage their resources effectively.

While a CFR return is optional for pupil referral units all four PRUs in Gloucestershire submitted a return in 2008-09. They received on average £11,300 per pupil from Government sources in 2008-09. It is not possible to split this by phase of education. This includes funds delegated by the LA; funding for sixth form students; SEN funding; funding for minority ethnic pupils; Standards Fund; School Standards Grant (SSG)—pupil focused; pupil focused extended school funding and/or grants and other Government grants.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average per student funding was of primary schools of *(a)* fewer than 50, *(b)* from 50 to 99, *(c)* from 100 to 199, *(d)* from 200 to 299, *(e)* from 300 to 399 and *(f)* over 400 pupils in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [310540]

Mr. Coaker: The average per student funding of primary schools of varying size is set out in the following table.

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations. Total budget share (plus grants)[1, 2] per pupil[3] in primary schools[4] in England with an urban/rural split: 2009-10. Cash terms[5] figures as reported by local authorities as at 11 January 2010

Total budget share (plus grants) per pupil

	Number of pupils in school						
	<50	*50-99*	*100-199*	*200-299*	*300-399*	*400 plus*	*All school sizes*
All primary schools	5,960	4,370	3,890	3,690	3,590	3,630	3,730
Rural schools	5,940	4,310	3,590	3,270	3,120	3,070	3,640
Urban schools	6,860	4,800	4,070	3,760	3,630	3,650	3,750

[1] Budget share plus grants allocated to schools is the combination of the schools individual budget share pl[illegible]ny revenue grants allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. This does not include any capital funding allocated to schools.

[2] The amount of money allocated to a school depends on the school funding policy of each local authority. There will be differences between authorities in the amounts of funding held centrally to spend on behalf of their schools.

[3] The pupil numbers used to calculate the per pupil amounts are as reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 2), comprising the full-time equivalent number of pupils registered at the school, used for the initial determination of the school's budget share under the local authority's allocation formula.

4. Included are all local authority maintained primary schools which are reported by their LA as being open for the entire final year (schools that are reported as either opening or closing during the financial year have been removed).

5. Figures are rounded to nearest £10.

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent per pupil in Preston in each year since 1997. [311235]

Mr. Coaker: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Preston as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information on how much has been spent per pupil in Lancashire local authority is shown in the following table:

School based expenditure per pupil in Lancashire local authority[1] from 1997-98 to 2008-09

		England	*Pre LGR Lancashire*	*Lancashire*
1997-98	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,740	1,670	—
	Secondary Education	2,360	2,400	—
	Special Schools	9,830	10,830	—
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,080	2,060	—
1998-99	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,870		1,820
	Secondary Education	2,450		2,450
	Special Schools	10,110		10,220
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,190		2,170
1999-2000	Primary Education	2,010		1,950
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,050		1,980
	Secondary Education	2,610		2,550
	Special Schools	10,900		10,350
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,390		2,320
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,370		2,300
2000-01	Primary Education	2,210		2,160
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,280		2,220
	Secondary Education	2,830		2,740
	Special Schools	11,860		11,130
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,620		2,540

School based expenditure per pupil in Lancashire local authority[1] from 1997-98 to 2008-09

		England	*Pre LGR Lancashire*	*Lancashire*
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,590		2,520
2001-02	Primary Education	2,480		2,450
	Pre-Primary and Primary Education	2,570		2,530
	Secondary Education	3,150		3,070
	Special Schools	13,030		12,690
	Total (including Pre-Primary)	2,940		2,880
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,900		2,840
2002-03	Primary Education	2,530		2,520
	Secondary Education	3,230		3,060
	Special Schools	12,820		12,640
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	2,950		2,890
2003-04	Primary Education	2,750		2,780
	Secondary Education	3,550		3,360
	Special Schools	14,050		13,670
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,230		3,170
2004-05	Primary Education	2,910		2,900
	Secondary Education	3,800		3,610
	Special Schools	15,110		14,630
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,440		3,360
2005-06	Primary Education	3,150		3,160
	Secondary Education	4,070		3,940
	Special Schools	16,430		15,720
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	3,710		3,670
2006-07	Primary Education	3,360		3,300
	Secondary Education	4,320		4,150
	Special Schools	17,480		16,270
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,210		4,200
2007-08	Primary Education	3,580		3,640
	Secondary Education	4,620		4,510
	Special Schools	18,650		17,130
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,210		4,200
2008-09	Primary Education	3,780		3,770
	Secondary Education	4,890		4,790
	Special Schools	19,790		18,880

School based expenditure per pupil in Lancashire local authority[1] from 1997-98 to 2008-09

		England	Pre LGR Lancashire	Lancashire
	Total (excluding Pre-primary)	4,460		4,420

[1] Local government reorganisation (LGR) changed the area covered by Lancashire local authority.

Notes:

[1] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by the CLG to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. From 2002-03 school based expenditure is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table A line 51 net current expenditure (NCE). For 2001-02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as lines 1 to 12 less lines 29, 30, 35 and 37. This differs from the old Net Institutional Expenditure (NIE) calculation only in the treatment of meals and milk which is no longer excluded and no adjustments for balances are now made. This is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table 3 for 1999-00 to 2001-02 and from the R01 form previously.

3. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

4. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

5. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990's and those LAs that did not exist either pre or post LGR are shaded out for those years.

6. Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

7. The 1999-00 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance. Consequently Las where there entire pupil provision were educated in GM schools will show a unit cost of zero prior to 1999-2000.

8. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-00.

9. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.

10. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and are in cash terms.

Schools

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to encourage local authorities to publish the annual balances of individual schools in their areas. [310940]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities must make a copy of their section 52 outturn statement, which includes the raw data on school balances, available on a website maintained by the authority and accessible by the public.

Revenue balances for individual maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in England are also publicly available on the Department's website at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/financeandfunding/informationforlocalauthorities/section52/schoolbalances/s52sb/

The 2008-09 figures for each school in England were published on 7 January 2010 alongside data for 1999-2000 to 2007-08. This information is taken from local authorities' published section 52 outturn statements for the years in question.

Schools: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he plans to review the respective roles of investigating officer and the chair of a board of governors in investigating the suspension of a head teacher or member of school staff for the purpose of distinguishing those roles; and what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the suspension of school staff; [310941]

(2) advice his Department provides to local authorities on whether the chair of the board of governors acting as an investigating officer should be able to choose the panel for a hearing in respect of an investigation into the performance of a head teacher or other member of school staff; [310942]

(3) how many cases in each local authority have been referred to his Department for advice on an investigation into the performance of a head teacher in each of the last two years; [310943]

(4) how many staff of his Department are trained to provide advice to local authorities on suspensions of school head teachers or other staff. [310944]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans to review the respective roles of the chair of governors and investigating officers where dealing with staff suspensions. The operation of disciplinary procedures, including those that result in suspension, is a matter for local determination. To support schools in this area there are a variety of sources of advice available to help governing bodies with their responsibilities. The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 and accompanying guidance, alongside the DCSF's/Guide to the Law for School Governors provides both governing bodies and local authorities with details of their responsibilities in relation to staff suspensions and sets out the statutory responsibilities falling to schools and local authorities as employers. This guidance is available through

www.governornet.co.uk.

and

www.teachernet.co.uk.

These sources also provide access to an extensive range of additional guidance material including materials from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Schools and local authorities are therefore able to draw from a wide variety of guidance when devising their policies and handling disciplinary cases, including suspension.

In respect of both head teachers and other teaching staff our guidance makes it clear that suspension is a neutral act allowing time to assess the situation before a final decision is taken. It does not imply guilt but provides an opportunity for matters to be investigated. Decisions on how any investigation is conducted are best left to schools to determine, drawing on the guidance that is available and where appropriate on advice and support from local authorities.

There is no requirement on local authorities to report suspensions of head teachers to the Department and there are no centrally held records setting out when and to what extent the Department and/or the Secretary of State have been involved in such cases.

Staff in the Department who are experienced in the provisions of the regulations and guidance associated with school staffing matters will provide advice on the processes relating to disciplinary procedures. They do not, however, provide advice on whether disciplinary procedures should result in suspension or any other sanction. That is a matter entirely for the disciplinary panel. No records are maintained of the number of requests for advice that has been sought from, or provided by, the Department.

Schools: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 148W, on schools: finance, which local authorities are classed as *(a)* predominantly rural and *(b)* predominantly urban; and if he will make a statement. [307286]

Mr. Coaker: The classifications are shown in the following table. The classification of local authorities into those which are predominately urban and predominately rural is based upon the Rural and Urban Area Classification (2004) sponsored by the Countryside Agency (CA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Welsh Assembly Government. Predominantly rural local authorities are classified as those which consist of more than 50 per cent. rural output areas.

LA name	*Predominantly*
City of London	Urban
Camden	Urban
Greenwich	Urban
Hackney	Urban
Hammersmith and Fulham	Urban
Islington	Urban
Kensington and Chelsea	Urban
Lambeth	Urban
Lewisham	Urban
Southwark	Urban
Tower Hamlets	Urban
Wandsworth	Urban
Westminster	Urban
Barking and Dagenham	Urban
Barnet	Urban
Bexley	Urban
Brent	Urban
Bromley	Urban
Croydon	Urban
Ealing	Urban
Enfield	Urban
Haringey	Urban
Harrow	Urban
Havering	Urban
Hillingdon	Urban
Hounslow	Urban
Kingston upon Thames	Urban
Merton	Urban
Newham	Urban
Redbridge	Urban
Richmond upon Thames	Urban
Sutton	Urban
Waltham Forest	Urban
Birmingham	Urban
Coventry	Urban
Dudley	Urban
Sandwell	Urban
Solihull	Urban
Walsall	Urban
Wolverhampton	Urban
Knowsley	Urban
Liverpool	Urban
St. Helens	Urban
Sefton	Urban
Wirral	Urban
Bolton	Urban
Bury	Urban
Manchester	Urban
Oldham	Urban
Rochdale	Urban
Salford	Urban
Stockport	Urban
Tameside	Urban
Trafford	Urban
Wigan	Urban
Barnsley	Urban
Doncaster	Urban
Rotherham	Urban
Sheffield	Urban
Bradford	Urban
Calderdale	Urban
Kirklees	Urban
Leeds	Urban
Wakefield	Urban
Gateshead	Urban
Newcastle upon Tyne	Urban
North Tyneside	Urban
South Tyneside	Urban
Sunderland	Urban
Bath and North East Somerset	Urban
Bristol, City of	Urban
North Somerset	Urban
South Gloucestershire	Urban
Hartlepool	Urban
Middlesbrough	Urban
Redcar and Cleveland	Urban
Stockton-on-Tees	Urban
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Urban
North East Lincolnshire	Urban
York	Urban
Bedfordshire	Urban
Luton	Urban

LA name	*Predominantly*
Buckinghamshire	Urban
Milton Keynes	Urban
Derbyshire	Urban
Derby	Urban
Dorset	Urban
Poole	Urban
Bournemouth	Urban
Durham	Urban
Darlington	Urban
East Sussex	Urban
Brighton and Hove	Urban
Hampshire	Urban
Portsmouth	Urban
Southampton	Urban
Leicestershire	Urban
Leicester	Urban
Staffordshire	Urban
Stoke-on-Trent	Urban
Swindon	Urban
Bracknell Forest	Urban
Windsor and Maidenhead	Urban
West Berkshire	Urban
Reading	Urban
Slough	Urban
Wokingham	Urban
Peterborough	Urban
Cheshire	Urban
Halton	Urban
Warrington	Urban
Plymouth	Urban
Torbay	Urban
Essex	Urban
Southend-on-Sea	Urban
Thurrock	Urban
Worcestershire	Urban
Kent	Urban
Medway	Urban
Lancashire	Urban
Blackburn with Darwen	Urban
Blackpool	Urban
Nottinghamshire	Urban
Nottingham	Urban
Telford and Wrekin	Urban
Gloucestershire	Urban
Hertfordshire	Urban
Isle of Wight	Urban
Lincolnshire	Urban
Northamptonshire	Urban
Oxfordshire	Urban
Suffolk	Urban
Surrey	Urban
Warwickshire	Urban
West Sussex	Urban
Isles of Scilly	Rural
East Riding of Yorkshire	Rural
North Lincolnshire	Rural
North Yorkshire	Rural
Rutland	Rural
Wiltshire	Rural
Cambridgeshire	Rural
Devon	Rural
Herefordshire	Rural
Shropshire	Rural
Cornwall	Rural
Cumbria	Rural
Norfolk	Rural
Northumberland	Rural
Somerset	Rural

Schools: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons Graham Badman was asked to undertake a review of National Challenge schools in Gloucestershire; and what the reasons were for the timetable set out for the review. [310343]

Mr. Coaker: Graham Badman was asked to undertake a review of National Challenge schools in Gloucestershire to help the authority increase the pace of improvement in the National Challenge and to explore options for developing sustainable solutions for schools most at risk of not reaching the National Challenge benchmark. The review was conducted with urgency in order to ensure that all schools will be sustainable above the National Challenge benchmark by 2011.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions Graham Badman has had with Gloucestershire County Council on National Challenge schools in the county. [310344]

Mr. Coaker: Graham Badman had discussions with officers of the local authority, the Cabinet Member for Schools and Deputy Leader, Jackie Hall and National Challenge Advisers when conducting his review of the National Challenge. These discussions covered all the schools supported by the National Challenge programme in Gloucestershire.

Schools: Inspections

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the new framework for inspections issued and implemented by Ofsted; and if he will make a statement. [304017]

Mr. Coaker: Matters concerning the school inspection framework and its implementation are for HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert. The Department is aware of recent press coverage and has also been contacted about the new school inspection arrangements.

Schools: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department and its predecessors have provided in respect of *(a)* computers and *(b)* information and communications technologies in schools in Preston since 1997. [311065]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect the information requested by constituency area.

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent repairing schools in Preston in each year since 1997. [311239]

Mr. Coaker: Repairs which bring schools back to their original state constitute a revenue expense, and are paid out of revenue funding. Repairs which amount to capital improvement, such as better insulation, are payable from capital allocations. The Department does not maintain records of revenue funding spent on repairs, as distinct from other revenue costs such as salaries, as this is decided locally.

School capital allocations are not made directly to Preston, but to Lancashire county council, and the Department maintains no central records of the amounts prioritised by Lancashire to Preston. Allocations by the Department to Lancashire during the period 1997-98 to 2009-10 amount to £1,010 million.

Secondary Education: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations his Department has received from Coventry city council on the recommendations made in the report of the Badman review of secondary education. [311282]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Coventry city council responded to the recent public consultation 'Home Education: registration and monitoring proposals' ending 19 October 2009 which was launched following the publication of the Badman review into home education in June 2009. I will write separately providing a copy of the full response.

Secondary Education: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools have at least *(a)* three, *(b)* five and *(c)* 10 deputy headteachers; and if he will make a statement. [308180]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether capital funding provided for school sixth form provision under the Building Schools for the Future programme is predicated on an expected level of retention of pupils transferring from year 11 to year 12; and if he will make a statement. [310500]

Mr. Coaker: When local authorities enter the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme they formulate 10-year pupil projections for 11 to 19-year-olds in secondary schools. These projections will make assumptions about the retention rates as pupils move into sixth form and should be informed by discussions with the local strategic partnership, further education colleges and the local Learning and Skills Council. The projections are submitted to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) for scrutiny and will be challenged where necessary. Once the figures have been approved by PfS they are used to generate the funding allocation to the local authority for the BSF programme.

Vauxhall

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310336]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the improvement in performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Vauxhall are given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Vauxhall constituency

	Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above		
	1997	2009[3]	Percentage point improvement 1997-2008
Vauxhall—English[1]	45	79	34
Vauxhall—maths[1]	46	79	33
Vauxhall—science[1]	52	87	35
England—English[2]	63	80	17
England—maths[2]	62	79	17
England—science[2]	68	88	20

[1] Pupils attending schools in Vauxhall constituency.
[2] The average for all schools in England.
[3] Revised data.

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools in the Vauxhall constituency

	Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above			
	1997	2008	2009[3]	Percentage point improvement 1997-2008
Vauxhall—5 plus A*-C	23.0	56.8	n/a	33.8
Vauxhall—5 plus A*-G	79.1	90.6	n/a	11.5
National average—5 plus A*-C	45.1	65.3	69.7	20.2
National Average—5 plus A*-G	86.4	91.6	92.5	5.2

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Provisional data.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level.

Additional information could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how the funding provided by his Department under the Youth Crime Action Plan has been spent. [311230]

Mr. Coaker: Implementation of the Youth Crime Action Plan is underpinned by a £100 million funding package, which is being used to:

Increase support in all local authority areas for families with most entrenched and complex problems;

Deliver an intensive programme of action in the 69 priority areas where the problem of youth crime is greatest; and

Provide expert support and guidance on recommended approaches to reducing youth crime for these areas, achieving the right balance between enforcement action to tackle the problems on our streets and early intervention to prevent them from happening in the first place.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of youth crime and anti social behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [311229]

Mr. Coaker: The Youth Taskforce Action Plan and the cross-departmental Youth Crime Action Plan set out the Government's approach to preventing and tackling youth crime and antisocial behaviour. The Youth Taskforce is driving delivery of both action plans, working with more than 80 local authorities and their partners across the country to ensure that every area can deliver an appropriate response to the needs of vulnerable young people.

The most recent Youth Taskforce progress report is available at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/youthmatters/youthtaskforce/ytf/

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills under what headings the Adult Safeguarded Learning budget for 2010-11 will be spent; and if he will make a statement. [309504]

Kevin Brennan: Our funding priorities for 2010/11 are set out in the strategy document, "Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11", published in November 2009. In the 2010-11 financial year we will invest £210 million in Adult Safeguarded Learning supporting:

Personal and Community Development Learning

Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy

Wider Family Learning

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities.

In the strategy document we have re-affirmed our commitment to implementing the vision for informal adult learning, including learning for personal, family and community development, described in "The Learning Revolution" White Paper (2009). We recognise that this type of learning contributes to the health and well-being of communities by building the confidence and resilience of the individuals involved. For the low-skilled and under-confident, informal learning can also be an important stepping stone to further learning and a more skilled future. We are working across Government and with our partners in every sector to make "The Learning Revolution" a reality. During 2010-11 we will work with the Skills Funding Agency to determine how funding for Adult Safeguarded Learning can be routed most effectively to secure local ownership and underpin strong local partnerships.

Aimhigher Programme: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much money has been allocated to Aimhigher *(a)* directly from his Department, *(b)* via the Higher Education Funding Council for England and *(c)* via the Learning and Skills Council for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [309857]

Mr. Lammy: The information is given in the following table.

	2009-10	*2010-11*
BIS[1]	56,900	56,900
HEFCE	32,300	[2]29,000
LSC[3]	0	0
Department for Health	600	[4]600
Total	89,800	[5]86,500

[1] The amounts given for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) include £9 million each year for the Aimhigher Associates scheme.

[2] HEFCE committed to fund the Aimhigher programme at £29 million per year for the three years 2008 to 2011. In light of the recent funding situation the Council is currently reviewing all its funding lines and final confirmation of all allocations for 2010-11 will be made, as is usual, shortly after their January board meeting. The council's additional £3.3 million allocation to support Aimhigher summer schools was committed until July 2010. Continued commitment after this date is also subject to the review.

[3] The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides £9.338 million to the LSC each year in the form of a ring-fenced grant for Aimhigher. This amount is included in the BIS figures in the table.

[4] The Department for Health has not yet confirmed its contribution for 2010-11.

[5] Subject to confirmation.

Note:

All figures are in £000.

Apprentices

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people completed an apprenticeship in each year since 1997. [310876]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the total number of people who have completed a full apprenticeship framework. Framework completion data were not published in the pre-LSC era, so figures are not available prior to 2001/02.

Table 1: Apprenticeship framework achievements

Academic year	*Framework achievements*
2001/02	39,000
2002/03	42,700

Table 1: Apprenticeship framework achievements

Academic year	*Framework achievements*
2003/04	49,300
2004/05	67,200
2005/06	98,700
2006/07	111,800
2007/08	112,600
2008/09	143,400

Note:
Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred. *Source:* WBL/ERILR

Apprentices: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the number of apprenticeships in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* the West Midlands. [309441]

Kevin Brennan: We are taking a wide range of measures to increase the number of people taking up an apprenticeship and to encourage more employers to offer high quality places. We have increased spending to over £1 billion in 2009-10. Apprenticeship starts in Staffordshire increased from 3,800 in 2003/04, to 4,600 in 2008/09 and in the west midlands increased from 22,200 to 27,800 over the same period. Nationally, apprenticeship starts increased from 65,000 in 1996/97 to a record 240,000 in 2008/09.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has responsibility for the delivery of apprenticeships and provides a single point of contact for employers and apprentices, and across the west midlands is working with employers to increase the number of people starting and completing apprenticeships.

Basic Skills

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what modifications there have been to skills courses relating to financial services funded by his Department as a result of the economic situation. [304569]

Kevin Brennan: Awarding organisations and sector skills councils work closely together to determine the content of vocational qualifications, and any modifications to them, based on agreed national occupational standards reflecting employers' views and labour market intelligence.

We are currently building more flexibility into the vocational qualifications system through the new Qualifications and Credit Framework, and through strengthening employers' say in what qualifications are developed, to ensure greater responsiveness to changes in employers' skills needs.

The Financial Services Skills Council is working on reforms to all vocational qualifications in its footprint so that they can be accredited to the Qualifications and Credit Framework. This includes developing new national occupational standards for financial advisers and using the expertise of established awarding organisations together with input from sector professional bodies to ensure that the skills needs of the financial industry are met.

Basic Skills: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department and its predecessors have made available to improve adult *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy in Preston since 1997. [311135]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) provides funding to further education (FE) colleges and training providers to support adults (aged 19 and older) undertaking courses in literacy, numeracy and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL).

Since the launch of the Skills for Life Strategy in 2001, it is estimated that £5 billion has been invested in Skills for Life provision (for those aged 16 and older) up until 2008. Nearly 6 million adults (aged 19 and older) across England have taken courses to improve their literacy, language and numeracy skills since 2001.

LSC funding is not allocated at the local authority level. Planned investment in Skills for Life at a national level is based on estimated levels of activity for an academic year. The amount of funding routed through Adult Learner Responsive and Train to Gain routes for Skills for Life is estimated at nearly £600 million for 2008-09 financial year and around £630 million for 2009-10 financial year, as set out in the Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 (November 2009). The actual amount spent on Skills for Life literacy and numeracy provision will depend on learner and employer demand.

Building Colleges for the Future

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce which further education colleges will receive the £300 million for capital projects in the next spending review period, as referred to in the letter from the then Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to the Chair of the Learning and Skills Council on 3 June 2009. [309512]

Kevin Brennan: Budget 2009 announced an additional £300 million of capital investment in further education as part of a fiscal stimulus package which has enabled a number of projects to be funded this year. Following an open and transparent prioritisation exercise the Learning and Skills Council announced on 26 June 2009 that 13 projects had been successful. All of these projects have now received final approval and are underway. For those colleges that have not been selected to proceed this round, the next steps have already started with the LSC undertaking a process to determine how future funds will be allocated to achieve the best value for money while keeping bureaucracy to a minimum. The size and scope of the programme will depend on the outcome of the next spending review.

Business Links: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Leeds North West constituency have received a health check from Business Link. [309382]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Business Link 'Health Check' figures are not routinely collated by constituency. However, between 23 October 2008 (when the Health Check was launched) and 30 November 2009 (the date of the most recent figures) over 10,500 individual businesses have benefited from the national Business Link 'Health Check' in the Yorkshire and Humber region, of which more than 1,580 were delivered in the Leeds area.

In December 2008 Business Link Yorkshire also introduced an intensive financial health check for businesses, funded through Yorkshire Forward and working closely with Yorkshire's accountants. By 31 December 2009, 1,368 businesses in the Yorkshire and Humber region had taken up this service, of which 192 were in Leeds.

Business Links: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Tamworth constituency have received a health check from Business Link to date. [309658]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the year to date, 95 businesses in Tamworth have received a health check from Business Link. In the same period health checks have been provided to 1,759 businesses in Staffordshire and 9,806 businesses across the west midlands.

Business: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage young people to obtain support from small business start-up schemes in Leeds North West constituency. [309384]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is taking proactive steps to promote small business start-up schemes to young people across the UK. BIS has recently funded initiatives, such as, "Flying Start"—Make It Happen (MIH) aimed at unemployed graduates, Enterprise UK; "Make Your Mark" campaign aimed at young people between 14 and 19 years, and supports the work of the Prince's Trust, aimed at unemployed young people—particularly in the most deprived areas.

With local chambers and further education colleges, Yorkshire Forward has run a range of enterprise initiatives for young people, such as The Young Peoples' Enterprise Forum and their Graduate Enterprise Programme. In addition, Business Link—BIS's main gateway to support for new and established businesses run by people of all ages—works closely with Yorkshire Forward, the Prince's Trust and Young Enterprise to ensure young people get the support they need to start their own business.

Business: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage young people to obtain support from small business start-up schemes in Tamworth constituency. [309657]

Ms Rosie Winterton: BIS, through Business Link West Midlands (BLWM), encourages young people to seek support in starting up businesses through the following routes:

(1) As part of a contract with BLWM, Business Enterprise Support (BES) has held an awareness event with Connexions in Tamworth and delivered training on self employment to students at Tamworth college.

(2) Business Link also sub-contract business start up support activity to the Princes Trust. The funding enables outreach workers in south Staffordshire to build relationships with young people in order to introduce them to start up support schemes and encourage them to make full use of the support available.

(3) Business Link works very closely with Job Centre Plus (JCP) who refer young people on benefits who are interested in exploring self-employment. Business Link speaks to each young person to discuss the realities of running a business and to encourage them to join a scheme designed for young people considering setting up a business.

Out of 23 businesses started in Tamworth with assistance from BLWM since April 2009 12 were established by individuals who are under 25-years-old.

Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for grants under the Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund have been received from *(a)* local partnerships and *(b)* national, regional or cross-regional organisations; how many such applications (i) related to each local authority area and (ii) were for amounts (A) up to £1,000, (B) from £1,001 to £2,000, (C) from £2,000 to £5,000, D) from £5,000 to £10,000, (E) from £10,000 to £20,000, (F) from £20,001 to £30,000 and (G) over £30,000; and what proportion of these applications have been granted. [309487]

Kevin Brennan: Applications for Development Funding under the Community Learning Champions Support Programme were received between 29 September and 26 October 2009. In answer to point *(a)*, 157 applications for grants were received form local partnerships and on point *(b)*, 14 applications were received from national, regional or cross-regional organisations. Details of the applications relating to local authority areas and funding amounts are set out in the following tables.

Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund—applications received

Local partnerships—157 applications received

		Funding band							Proportion successful	
Eligible LA districts	Number of applications to work in this area received	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Number	Percentage
Adur	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Amber Valley	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Ashfield	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	66.7

Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund—aapplications received

Local partnerships—157 applications received

		Funding band							*Proportion successful*	
Eligible LA districts	*Number of applications to work in this area received*[1]	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Ashford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Basildon	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Bassetlaw	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	100.0
Barking and Dagenham	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0.0
Barrow in Furness	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Birmingham	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	25.0
Blackburn with Darwen	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Blackpool	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Bolsover	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Bradford	8	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	1	12.5
Brent	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Brighton and Hove	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Bristol, City of	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Burnley	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Camden	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	50.0
Carlisle	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Chester	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	100.0
Copeland	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Coventry	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Croydon	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.0
Darlington	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Derby	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Doncaster	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Dudley	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.0
Durham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Ealing	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.0
Enfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Gateshead	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Great Yarmouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Greenwich	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Hackney	5	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	20.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Haringey	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	25.0
Hastings	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Hyndburn	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Ipswich	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Islington	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	33.3
Kingston upon Hull	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Kirklees	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Leeds	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0.0
Leicester	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	25.0
Lewisham	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0.0
Liverpool	5	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0.0
Manchester	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0.0
Mansfield	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	66.7
Newark and Sherwood	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	100.0
Newham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
North East Lincolnshire	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Norwich	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.0
Nottingham	7	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	2	28.6
Nuneaton and Bedworth	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Oldham	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Oxford	1	0	0	[illegible]	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Pendle	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Portsmouth	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.0

Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund—applications received

Local partnerships—157 applications received

		Funding band							Proportion successful	
Eligible LA districts	*Number of applications to work in this area received*[1]	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Preston	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Plymouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Redditch	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Rochdale	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.0
Rotherham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Salford	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	33.3
Sandwell	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	25.0
Sedgemoor	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Sefton	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Sheffield	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.0
South Tyneside	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Southampton	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.0
Southwark	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Stoke on Trent	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Sunderland	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Swale	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.0
Swindon	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Tameside	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.0
Telford and Wrekin	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Thanet	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0.0
Thurrock	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Tower Hamlets	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	25.0
Wakefield	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Waltham Forest	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
West Cheshire	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	100.0
West Somerset	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	50.0
Wigan	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Wirral	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
Worcester	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.0
Total	176	0	1	1	1	23	148	2	50	

Regional or cross regional projects—12 applications received

		Funding band							Proportion successful	
Areas covered	*Number of applications to work in this area received*[1]	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Nottingham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Derby	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Leicester	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Stockton on Tees	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burnley	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Calderdale	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Manchester	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bradford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Not stated	8	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	1	12.50
Total	18	0	0	0	0	1	17	0	1	

National projects—2 applications received

		Funding band							Proportion successful	
Areas covered	*Number of applications to work in this area received*[1]	*A*	*B*	*c*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Islington	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kingston upon Hull	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Doncaster	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

National projects—2 applications received

Areas covered	Number of applications to work in this area received[1]	Funding band A	B	c	D	E	F	G	Proportion successful Number	Percentage
North Lincs	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sheffield	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Not stated	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100
Total	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	

[1] NB Total is a higher figure than the number of total bids as some bids aimed to work in more than one LA area

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many grants have been distributed through the Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund to *(a)* local partnerships and *(b)* national, regional or cross-regional organisations; and how many such grants (i) related to each local authority area and (ii) were for amounts (A) up to £1,000, (B) from £1,001 to £2,000, (C) from £2,000 to £5,000, (D) from £5,000 to £10,000, (E) from £10,000 to £20,000, (F) from £20,001 to £30,000 and (G) over £30,000. [309488]

Kevin Brennan: Applications for Development Funding under the Community Learning Champions Support Programme were received between 29 September and 26 October 2009. In answer to point *(a)* 34 grants have been distributed to local partnerships and on point *(b)*, two grants have been distributed to national, regional or cross-regional organisations.

Details of the grants relating to local authority areas and funding amounts are set out in the attachment as follows.

Community learning champions support programme development fund—successful applications, local partnerships—34 applications granted

Eligible LA districts	Number of successful projects to work in this area	Funding band A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Adur	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ashfield	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Bassetlaw	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Birmingham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Blackpool	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bolsover	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bradford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brent	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brighton and Hove	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bristol, City of	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Burnley	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Camden	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Chester	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Coventry	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Darlington	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Durham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Great Yarmouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hackney	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Haringey	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hastings	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hyndburn	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ipswich	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Islington	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kingston upon Hull	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kirklees	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Leicester	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mansfield	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Newark and Sherwood	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
North East Lincolnshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nottingham	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Pendle	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Preston	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Plymouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Salford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sandwell	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sedgemoor	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Community learning champions support programme development fund—successful applications, local partnerships—34 applications granted

		Funding band						
Eligible LA districts	*Number of successful projects to work in this area*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Sefton	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Tyneside	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Southwark	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stoke on Trent	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tower Hamlets	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
West Cheshire	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
West Somerset	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wirral	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	50	0	0	0	0	2	48	0

Regional or cross regional projects—one application granted

		Funding band						
Areas covered	*Number of successful projects to work in this area*[1]	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Not stated	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

National projects—one application granted

		Funding band						
Areas covered	*Number of successful projects to work in this area*[1]	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Not stated	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

[1] Total is a higher figure than the number of total bids as some bids aimed to work in more than one LA area.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* administering in each of the next three years the Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund. [309489]

Kevin Brennan: Organisations and consortia were invited to tender to set up and manage the Community Learning Champions Support programme in July 2010. A budget of up to £3 million was made available to the successful contractor to deliver the commitments outlined in "The Learning Revolution" White Paper. Clear emphasis was placed on the need to provide excellent value for money in order to maximise spending on the support programme and the sharing of resources with local champion schemes.

Funding is available for two years only and comprises £1.7 million for 2009/10 and £1.3 million for 2010/11. All administrative costs are to be met from this budget. The proposal for a development fund was a feature of the successful tender which, along with the contractor's management and administration costs, is covered by a contract with the Department and as such is subject to commercial confidence.

Copyright: EC Law

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on negotiations at EU level on the extension of copyright term limits. [310448]

Mr. Lammy: The Government have made clear their support for an appropriate extension to the term of protection for sound recordings and performer's rights in sound recordings. Any extension should more closely match the expected lifetime of performers and should also be accompanied by a package of measures that deliver real and lasting benefits to all performers and musicians. We believe that the current proposal of the European Parliament for an extension of term from 50 to 70 years, together with a number of permanent measures designed to assist performers and musicians, will deliver this.

The text proposed by the European Parliament is still before the Council and I expect discussions to continue under the new Commission when it is appointed. The UK will continue to work to deliver a satisfactory outcome.

Degrees

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many *(a)* animation and *(b)* design students have graduated with an honours degree from a university in England in each year since 1997; [310612]

(2) how many *(a)* art, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* video games, *(d)* computer science and *(e)* IT students have graduated with an honours degree from a university in England in each year since 1997. [310613]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Comparable figures prior to 2002/03 are not available due to changes in the coding of subject of study. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

The level of detail of individual subjects is not consistently recorded by institutions. Subject of study is only required at the subject line level (i.e. Computer Science), though some institutions choose to record subjects at a lower level (i.e. Multimedia Computer Science). As such, the figures may undercount the numbers studying "Multimedia Computer Science", as some institutions may have chosen to code as "Computer Science". The same applied for "Animation Techniques", as some institutions may have chosen to record the subject line level of "Cinematics and Photography".

First degree qualifiers by subject of study English higher education institutions academic years 2002/03 to 2008/09

Academic year	Animation Techniques	Design Studies	Fine Art	Mathematics	Computer Science	of which: Multimedia Computing Science
2002/03	90	10,640	3,310	3,730	11,610	520
2003/04	130	10,945	3,265	3,970	12,025	845
2004/05	215	11,490	3,300	3,805	11,210	1,080
2005/06	295	11,820	3,285	4,060	10,335	1,220
2006/07	320	11,920	3,345	4,295	9,320	1,320
2007/08	385	12,450	3,720	4,485	8,450	1,420
2008/09	440	12,095	3,505	4,710	8,115	1,260

Note:

Figures are based on a qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Departmental Pay

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what pay band his Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307573]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's CIO is employed on pay band SCS PBl, on a permanent contract. The size of the budget for which the CIO is responsible is £29 million (period 2009-10). The budget incorporates all ICT and Information Strategy and Services activities.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects of EU Food Supplement Directive (2002/46/EC) in setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals on *(a)* small vitamin and food supplement producers, *(b)* consumer choice, *(c)* the availability of products from unregulated vitamin suppliers from countries outside the EU and *(d)* sales of vitamin and food supplements in the UK; and what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on this matter. [310450]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has been actively engaged in the ongoing development of a full impact assessment by the Food Standards Agency who lead on this issue for Government; we have not, however, conducted an additional assessment of our own. The Food Standards Agency impact assessment addresses the effect of these proposals on all stakeholders, including small vitamin and supplement producers, UK sales of supplements, availability of unregulated supplies and ongoing consumer choice.

The assessment has been informed by recent constructive meetings between industry, the Food Standards Agency and BIS officials as well as the recent impact assessment carried out by industry representatives following discussions with Food Standards Agency, DEFRA and BIS.

Although I have not had recent discussions with European counterparts on this matter, BIS officials continue to work closely with the Food Standards Agency to develop the UK negotiating position and feed into Commission proposals.

Foundation Degrees

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students enrolled on a foundation degree course in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [311119]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is provided in the following table.

The numbers of students enrolled on foundation degrees at English higher education institutions (HEIs) and English further education colleges (FECs) are provided for each of the last five years.

Foundation degree enrolments[1]: English HEIs and FECs academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Academic year	Enrolments
2003/04	23,945
2004/05	37,820
2005/06	46,780
2006/07	60,580
2007/08[2]	71,915

[1] Covers enrolments of all domiciles to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Figures for 2007/08 are provisional.

Note:

Figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

HEFCE report 2008/16

Furniture: Foam

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Office of Fair Trading on changes in the cost of foam supplied to furniture manufacturers over the last 12 months. [308838]

Kevin Brennan: I have had no discussions with the Office of Fair Trading on this matter.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills under what headings the Further Education Development, Capacity and Quality budget for 2010-11 will be spent; and if he will make a statement. [309505]

Kevin Brennan: The Skills Investment Strategy, setting out investment in Further Education (FE) and Skills for 2010-11, was published in November 2009. £3.5 billion, an increase of 3 per cent. on 2009-10, will be routed through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to support training places.

In addition, the SFA will invest £241 million in FE development, capacity and quality in 2010-11. Detailed allocations of this resource will be made by the SFA in due course. This funding supports a wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting the effectiveness and quality of FE, including, for example, information, advice and guidance services for adult learners. The final allocations of this resource will continue to support Government priorities, as set out in the Skills Investment Strategy.

Higher Education

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of the likely effect of a reduction in the length of undergraduate courses to two years on the global ranking of English universities. [310627]

Mr. Lammy: Two year honours degrees are but one example of the increased flexibility we believe is important for the future development of higher education, as set out in our recent strategy document "Higher Ambitions". They are targeted at a specific sector of the student population. Students cover the full content of an honours degree in two calendar years, by working through university vacations. An interim evaluation of pilot projects currently in train in eight institutions was published by the Higher Education Academy in August 2009. It confirmed that the quality of curricula, the student learning experience and the standard of student work were at least comparable with traditional three year degrees and in some cases higher.

Higher Education: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Higher Education Funding Council for England recurrent spending on widening participation is planned for 2010/11. [309858]

Mr. Lammy: Provisional recurrent grant allocations, including the element for widening participation for the next academic year 2010/11 will be made by the funding council in the usual way in March.

Internet: Copyright

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between Ministers in his Department and *(a)* the Federation Against Copyright Theft and *(b)* the British recorded music industry in the last 12 months. [306024]

Mr. Lammy: There is regular correspondence between Ministers and officials from this Department and both the Federation Against Copyright Theft and the British Recorded Music Industry. It is not common practice to put copies of such correspondence in the Library of the House.

King's College London: Medicine

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is funding on the extended medical degree programme at King's College London in 2010-11; what the cost is of each such place; and whether HEFCE is funding places on extended medical degree programmes at other universities. [309964]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England does not specify how many places should be available for the extended medical degree programme at King's College; the number of places is decided by King's College from their overall funding allocation. Approximately 50 places are usually made available. For a student beginning the course in 2010-11 and completing the full six years of the extended medical programme, HEFCE calculate that the notional grant through its mainstream teaching allocation would be £64,855 in total based on current funding assumptions. This figure is based on funding through the teaching and learning allocations, but does not include any element of other targeted allocations such as that for widening participation, or any income from fees. Funding is available through HEFCE for extended medical degree programmes at other universities.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Learning and Skills Council-funded capital projects relating to colleges originally planned to be completed before or in 2012 *(a)* are now expected to be completed later than 2012 and *(b)* have been discontinued; and how much (i) was originally planned to be spent and (ii) has been spent on each such project. [310001]

Kevin Brennan: There are currently 64 projects currently under way (on-site) with a further two projects due to go on-site by March 2010 which are in receipt of LSC grant support. Of these projects, all 66 are scheduled to be completed by 31 December 2012.

As with all building projects, slippage can occur however the LSC are not aware of any projects with major delays. All projects approved and funded by the LSC are expected to have in place detailed contingency plans to mitigate against any outcomes. As reported by the NAO report "Renewing the physical infrastructure of English further education colleges"—most FE college capital projects come in on budget and to time.

The 64 projects currently under way have already received, or will receive over the next four years, £1.761 billion in total in grant support from the LSC. In this current financial year (2009-10), the LSC plans to spend £818.6 million in grant support to those projects. The remaining two projects due to go on-site by March 2010 will receive a total of £32.7 million in grant support in this CSR and the next.

There are zero projects that have received final approval from the LSC that have been discontinued.

Paid Leave: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Preston qualify for paid leave entitlements. [311133]

Mr. McFadden: All workers resident in Preston qualify for paid annual leave entitlements; at least 5.6 weeks statutory minimum (28 days), as set out in the working time regulations. Numbers of workers resident in Preston are not available, however, there were a total of 91,300 employees who worked in Preston (but did not necessarily live there) in 2009, who would qualify for paid annual leave entitlement.

Manufacturing Industries: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to safeguard manufacturing jobs in Leeds during the economic downturn. [305986]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Solutions for Business is a streamlined package of publicly funded support offering help for companies to start, grow and improve their competitiveness. This support is accessed in Yorkshire and The Humber through Business Link Yorkshire.

Since they were introduced on 23 October 2008 Business Link has arranged for over 10,500 health checks for businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber. This includes 1,580 businesses in the Leeds local authority area of which 225 are involved in manufacturing.

The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) is part of the Government Solutions for Business portfolio. MAS plays a vital role in helping manufacturers improve their productivity and competitiveness.

Business Link Yorkshire works closely with MAS to promote services available to manufacturers. As an example, Business Link Yorkshire in partnership with MAS and Leeds City Council organised a "Leeds Manufacturing - Looking to the Future" event on 22 January 2009. This event provided advice to help businesses improve their competitiveness and survive the downturn. It was attended by over 200 manufacturing businesses in Leeds.

In Yorkshire and The Humber MAS has 150 manufacturing specialists who can advise on all aspects of manufacturing to deliver business improvements. Its range of services includes "manufacturing mentoring through the downturn" where the focus is on safeguarding manufacturing jobs.

In the period September 2008 to October 2009 MAS Yorkshire and Humber helped 122 companies in the Leeds area. This support resulted in assisting these companies to achieve Gross Value Added (GVA) improvements of over £3.6 million creating 13 new jobs and safeguarding 345 jobs.

Yorkshire Forward set up a manufacturing task group in February 2009. This group is working on a long term strategy for manufacturing in the region building on key growth sectors. These include low carbon technologies; digital and new media; life sciences and advanced engineering and materials. I will continue to work with this group to ensure both the region and Leeds maintains its reputation as a strong manufacturing base.

Maternity Leave: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of women resident in Preston have taken 26 weeks maternity leave since 1997. [311132]

Mr. McFadden: From April 2007 all employed mothers are entitled to 52 weeks maternity leave, of which 39 may be paid. Employers are not required to record or report the uptake of maternity leave to the Government. No figures are available at the constituency level.

The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on the DWP "Maternity Rights and Mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers" (2007). In 2006, when mothers included in the study went on maternity leave, the statutory entitlement to ordinary maternity leave (OML) was 26 weeks, while mothers who had worked for their employer for a qualifying period of 26 weeks were also entitled to additional maternity leave (AML) of 26 weeks.

For mothers taking maternity leave in 2006:

84 per cent. took 26 weeks or more maternity leave;

35 per cent. took exactly 26 weeks maternity leave;

46 per cent. of mothers took between 27 and 52 weeks and only 3 per cent. were off for more than 52 weeks;

16 per cent. of mothers took less than the statutory minimum entitlement (i.e. 26 weeks in 2006).

The next maternity rights survey will be based on mothers who took maternity leave starting in summer 2008. It is due to report in 2010.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many requests from businesses for help from the Automotive Assistance Programme have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved. [311121]

Ian Lucas: The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) Team has had contact with over 90 companies and continues to seek and receive new applications. Two formal offers of support have been made which were not taken up due to success in accessing financial support elsewhere. Five further companies who received positive indicative support also saw this prompting external investment. 11 other companies remain in detailed negotiations with BIS over applications worth some £2 billion.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the car scrappage scheme. [311364]

Ian Lucas: A BIS assessment of the UK scrappage scheme has estimated a short-term stimulus to the value of UK vehicles sales worth approximately £2.1 billion. On 28 September 2009 the Government announced an extension to the scheme. The revised cumulative figure is currently expected to be approximately £2.8 billion by the time the scheme comes to an end.

Parental Leave

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people took *(a)* paternity and *(b)* maternity leave in the latest period for which figures are available. [310467]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on published findings from the DWP survey of "Maternity Rights and Mother's Employment Decisions" (published by DWP in 2008). The survey is based on face-to-face interviews with a random sample of 2,000 mothers who had a baby between February and May 2006. Of mothers in paid work, all (100 per cent.) took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave.

Mothers interviewed for the 2007 DWP survey reported that the overwhelming majority of fathers (91 per cent.) took some time off when the baby was born. No distinction was made between whether this time-off was taken as paternity leave, annual leave or any other paid or unpaid arrangement with employers The Department's most up-to-date estimates of fathers taking paternity leave are from the "Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents", conducted in 2005. 93 per cent. of fathers interviewed took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave. The 2005 survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners.

Regional Development Agencies: Recruitment

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 988W, on regional development agencies: recruitment, how much has been spent on the contract with the search consultants. [309947]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost of the search consultants for filling three chair vacancies for East of England Development Agency, ONE North East and Yorkshire Forward is £55,000.

The consultants not only undertake the search, they undertake many of the administrative elements, for example sifting the applications, undertaking long listing interviews and giving feedback to candidates who have applied.

Research: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress the Government have made in meeting its target to increase research and development spending to 2.5 per cent. of national income under the Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-14; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the target is met. [309705]

Mr. Lammy: The Department reports annually on progress on all aspects of the Science and Innovation Investment Framework, the fifth and most recent report is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/~/media/publications/A/annual-report-2009

The focus solely on research and development spending fails to capture the breadth of investment in innovation in the UK economy. It is for this reason that the Innovation Nation White Paper committed the Government to developing an Innovation Index for the UK.

The pilot Innovation Index, developed by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) was published in November 2009 and is available at:

http://www.nesta.org.uk/library/documents/innovation-index.pdf

Progress on a number of the original innovation measures will be reported on in the second Annual Innovation Report which will be published shortly.

Skills Councils: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills budget will be allocated to sector skills councils in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [309509]

Kevin Brennan: In 2009-10, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills have been allocated £72,724,000 to fund Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) for both their core activity supporting skills development within their sectors and other work creating and maintaining vocational qualifications and diplomas in England.

The grant in aid arrangements for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills in 2010-11, including the allocation for SSCs, have still to be finalised.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department plans to provide to sector skills councils other than funding from the budget of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. [309510]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides some funding to two of the Sector Skills Councils—Government Skills and Lifelong Learning UK.

Government Skills, the Sector Skills Council for central Government, is a part of the Department. As well as its funding from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, Government Skills received £2.3 million in

2009-10 from the Department's Vote, of which £1.5 million has been contributed by employers across the sector.

For Lifelong Learning UK the Department provided funding of £16 million in 2009-10. Lifelong Learning UK's 2010-11 funding level has still to be finalised although there will be a significant reduction in funding.

Supermarkets

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the effect of the buying practices of larger supermarkets on *(a)* the ability of their suppliers to innovate and *(b)* the economic visibility of their suppliers. [310418]

Kevin Brennan: A draft impact assessment will be produced and published as part of the Government's consultation following its response to the Competition Commission's proposals for a groceries supply code of practice ombudsman. The assessment will consider and take into account the effects of the CC's proposals, including the ability of supermarkets' suppliers to innovate and the economic visibility of their suppliers.

Trade Agreements

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence Ministers in his Department have had on the negotiation of a proposed anti-counterfeiting trade agreement in the last 12 months. [310445]

Mr. Lammy: I have been kept informed by Intellectual Property Office (IPO) officials on a regular basis regarding the progress of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations. Over the last 12 months, my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State and I have received two letters raising concerns over the content and conduct of the ACTA negotiations. Furthermore, the Department has received two requests under the Freedom of Information Act. I have instructed officials to press for more transparency in the negotiations.

Train to Gain Programme: Lincolnshire

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid out in Train to Gain funding in North East Lincolnshire since the inception of that scheme. [309767]

Kevin Brennan: Between its inception in April 2006 and the end of the academic year 2008/09, over 1.4 million qualifications were started under the Train to Gain programme. Investment in this programme will continue to increase; for 2010-11 financial year, we plan to invest a total of £983 million.

Funding for the Train to Gain programme is not allocated through Local authorities (LAs) but distributed directly from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to further education (FE) colleges and training providers on the basis of the volume of learning they deliver. It is therefore not possible to provide a total figure for money paid out to North East Lincolnshire as an LA.

However, up until the end of the academic year 2008/09, 4,600 people with the home postcodes lying within North East Lincolnshire have started Train to Gain courses. Funding will have been provided to support this number of learners as they develop their skills.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department expects to spend on adult skills other than through the Skills Funding Agency in 2010-11; and on what projects such expenditure will be incurred. [309506]

Kevin Brennan: In financial year 2010-11 the Department's planned DEL expenditure on adult skills, other than through the Skills Funding Agency, is £422 million.

Detailed plans for the use of the £422 million resource have not been confirmed yet. However it will support a range of activity to support learners and employers identify and access the skills they need and to support the Government's priorities and reforms set out in the Skills Investment Strategy. For example, through support for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to strengthen the employer voice in the skills system, the development of National Skills Academies and supporting implementation of the new Adult Advancement and Careers Service.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* departmental spending and *(b)* annually managed expenditure will be incurred on (i) the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and (ii) adults skills expenditure not routed through the SFA in (A) 2009-10 and 2010-11. [309508]

Kevin Brennan: The following table sets out the planned level of skills expenditure requested. As detailed in the Skills Investment Strategy in November 2009, the 2010-11 allocations will allow for a 3 per cent. increase in funding for training places compared to 2009-10.

£ million

	Financial year	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
Skills Funding Agency[1]	4,934	4,501
Of which:		
DEL	4,934	4,501
AME	0	0
Other BIS skills expenditure	646	616
Of which:		
DEL	461	422
AME[2]	186	194

[1] As noted in the Skills Investment Strategy, these figures include anticipated end year flexibility and allocations expected from the Department's Unallocated Provision. The figures for 2010-11 are reduced by an estimate of the administration cost currently within the Learning and Skills Council which will transfer to the Young People's Learning Agency when established at the beginning of the 2010-11 financial year.

[2] This expenditure relates to the Construction Industry Training Board and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board. Expenditure is matched by levy receipts from employers in the relevant sector.

Vocational Training: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage innovation in the West Midlands. [307314]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* As part of its objective to build a strong economy Government are taking a range of measures to encourage innovation in the West Midlands and across the country as a whole.

We are doing this through, for example the UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF) which will ensure that venture capital is available by early 2010 to invest in innovative British businesses across the United Kingdom in key sectors (life sciences, clean technology, digital and advanced manufacturing). In the PBR we announced that Government's investment of £150 million in the UKIIF has leveraged £175 million in additional money, creating a pool of funding initially worth £325 million.

Support for innovation is also provided through the R&D Tax Credit scheme, which allows companies to claim tax relief against R&D expenditure. Latest figures show that up until 31 March 2008, 425 SMEs and 115 large companies in the West Midlands had their claims for R&D Tax Credits approved.

The establishment of the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) in 2007 has given Britain a successful business-led body whose programmes channel public funds into driving business innovation in areas where there are major opportunities for future growth.

The Government funded Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are also supporting innovation. The West Midlands RDA, Advantage West Midlands (AWM), has aligned around £157 million of funding with TSB priorities over 2008-11. The Agency is the lead RDA on two of the national Innovation Platforms, Low Carbon Vehicles and Assisted Living and is working on initiatives related to other platforms:

Intelligent transport systems and services and low impact buildings as well as exploring opportunities in possible future platforms such as immersive education.

Key innovation-based projects supported by AWM include:

(i) The £77 million investment in the Birmingham-Warwick Research Alliance through Birmingham Science City creates a platform on which to build university-business collaboration and business access to research equipment and expertise, in the areas of energy, advanced materials, and translational medicine.

(ii) The Advanced Sensors Innovation Project has created an investment fund of over £6 million to exploit intellectual property within QinetiQ at Malvern in conjunction with industry. A further project to exploit Quantum Technologies is under development in a partnership between QinetiQ, AWM and industry.

(iii) AWM is investing £30 million over the next three years to support the Low Carbon Vehicles (LCV) plan from the National Automotive Innovation Growth Team. Part of this will go to a programme based at a regional hub and part will be co-invested with the TSB in support of its Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform.

(iv) AWM is investing £40 million, in partnership with emda, in the Manufacturing Technology Centre. Bringing together Tier 1 manufacturing companies, and their supply chains, key Midlands's universities and The Welding Institute (TWI), the MTC will create a step change in the competitiveness of UK manufacturing performance focused around assembly, joining and fabrication technologies.

(v) AWM has committed around £20 million to support development of clinical trialling and experimental medicine facilities within the translational medicine part of the Science City programme, as well as investing in a Health Technologies Design Institute at Coventry University.

Working Hours: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Preston have received a reduction in their working hours as a result of the reduction in the maximum length of the working week to 48 hours. [311134]

Mr. McFadden: The working time regulations provide workers with the right to refuse to work more than 48 hours on average, if they do not want to. It is not possible to estimate how many people have received a reduction in their working hours as a result of the reduction in the maximum length of the working week to 48 hours either at the national level or in Preston.

TREASURY

Banks: Currencies

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects of foreign currency liabilities of UK banks on *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the UK economy. [309698]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As a result of the financial crisis, HM Treasury has taken a stake in a number of banks.

RBS, in which our stake is managed at arm's length according to commercial principles, is part of the Asset Protection Scheme (APS). Details of assets covered in the scheme were published on 7 December ('Royal Bank of Scotland: details of Asset Protection Scheme and launch of the Asset Protection Agency', available on the HMT website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
financial_stability_agreements.htm)

Any actual liability to HM Treasury occurs only in a stress scenario where the scheme is triggered. The expected loss from the APS is £0.

Lloyds Banking Group did not participate in the APS and therefore the Government have not offered protection for any assets they hold. It is a decision for Lloyds as to the nature of particular disclosures, which can be seen in their published accounts.

Bradford and Bingley and Northern Rock are also run at arm's length according to commercial principles and so it is their decision as to the nature of particular disclosures. Foreign currency liabilities can be seen in their published accounts.

Banks in which the Government have no stake are not required to submit information to HM Treasury on the nature of their liabilities. As such, it is impossible to isolate the impact of banks' foreign currency liabilities on the economy as a whole.

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether expenditure in England on the boiler scrappage scheme will be subject to the Barnett formula and consequential funding made available for Wales. [310506]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 January 2010]*: The boiler scrappage scheme was announced in the pre Budget report. The devolved Administrations received Barnett consequentials on additional funding at that time.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the results from his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the total cost of the survey was. [310767]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The results of HM Treasury's latest staff survey, undertaken in October 2009 are not yet available. HM Treasury will publish its staff survey results on the public website in early February, once they have been received and communicated to staff. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier for HM Treasury's staff survey in October 2009 was ORC International who were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross Civil Service People Survey. The People survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the 2009-10 People Survey for HM Treasury was £23,142. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10, the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

The results from HM Treasury's previous staff surveys can already be found in the Library.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* destination, *(b)* cost, *(c)* class of ticket purchased and *(d)* type of fare was for each flight taken by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury at public expense in the last six months; and what the purpose was of each overseas trip. [310740]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Economic Situation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which five sectors of the economy contributed the *(a)* most and *(b)* least to the UK economy in each of the last five years. [311395]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning which five sectors of the economy contributed the *(a)* most and *(b)* least to the UK economy in each of the last five years. (311395)

Economic activity as measured by the gross value added by industry is published in the "UK National Accounts—The Blue Book". Table 2.3 of the 2009 publication shows the contribution of the main industrial headings, and contain the information requested.

2.3 Gross value added at current basic prices: by industry[1, 2]

£ Million

			2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
A,B	*Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing*	QTOP	8,532	8,334	9,008	9,807	10,670	7,530	7,911	9,302
C,D,E	*Production*									
C	Mining and quarrying									
CA	Mining and quarrying of energy producing materials									
C10	Mining of coal	QTOQ	607	545	538	472	380	343	346	379
C11	Extraction of mineral oil and natural gas	QTOR	22,174	20,825	19,911	19,451	20,657	24,995	29,631	29,127
CB	Other mining and quarrying	QTOS	1,782	1,750	1,469	1,520	1,848	2,115	2,330	2,690
C	Total mining and quarrying	QTOT	24,564	23,120	21,918	21,442	22,885	27,453	32,307	32,196
D	Manufacturing									
DA	Food; beverages and tobacco	QTOU	19,963	20,655	20,834	21,408	22,101	22,019	22,133	22,587
DB	Textiles and textile products	QTOV	5,813	5,343	4,818	4,282	4,071	3,888	3,985	4,031

2.3 Gross value added at current basic prices: by industry[1, 2]

£ Million

			2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
DC	Leather and leather products	QTOW	747	645	590	462	398	391	344	333
DD	Wood and wood products	QTOX	2,294	2,332	2,479	2,655	2,744	2,759	2,863	3,016
DE	Pulp, paper and paper products; publishing and printing	QTOY	20,187	20,129	20,008	19,780	19,784	19,479	20,082	19,831
DF	Coke, petroleum products and nuclear fuel	QTOZ	2,336	2,488	2,435	2,377	2,396	2,492	2,258	2,708
DG	Chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres	QTPA	15,040	16,077	16,083	16,149	15,644	16,771	18,553	19,508
DH	Rubber and plastic products	QTPB	7,609	7,656	7,569	7,516	7,545	7,400	7,077	7,188
DI	Other non-metal mineral products	QTPC	4,965	5,033	5,296	5,417	5,253	5,298	5,379	5,700
DJ	Basic metals and fabricated metal products	QTPD	15,903	15,525	14,897	14,774	15,075	16,093	16,381	17,064
DK	Machinery and equipment not elsewhere classified	QTPE	12,346	12,256	12,085	12,146	12,373	12,245	12,958	12,693
DL	Electrical and optical equipment	QTPF	20,337	18,347	16,468	15,545	15,651	16,493	16,876	17,358
DM	Transport equipment	QTPG	15,987	16,091	16,178	15,903	16,110	16,216	16,526	15,770
DN	Manufacturing not elsewhere classified	QTPH	6,477	6,643	6,567	6,429	6,546	6,569	6,646	7,131
D	Total manufacturing	QTPI	150,004	149,220	146,307	144,843	145,691	148,113	152,061	154,918
E	Electricity, gas and water supply	QTPJ	15,798	15,660	16,052	16,405	16,106	16,685	20,005	21,086
C,D,E	Total production	QTPK	190,366	188,000	184,277	182,690	184,682	192,251	204,373	208,200
F	*Construction*	QTPL	45,626	50,526	54,684	59,522	66,029	69,868	74,509	80,148
G-Q	*Service industries*									
G	Wholesale and retail trade (including motor trade); repair of motor vehicles, personal and household goods	QTPM	103,408	110,250	113,776	120,520	127,366	129,811	134,525	140,904
H	Hotels and restaurants	QTPN	25,605	26,927	28,638	30,120	31,870	32,901	34,275	35,289
I	Transport, storage and communication									
	Transport and storage	QTPO	42,476	43,184	44,501	47,022	48,703	50,203	51,845	54,303
	Communication	QTPP	26,726	27,317	28,562	29,566	30,317	30,684	30,928	32,551
I	Total	QTPQ	69,202	70,501	73,063	76,588	79,020	80,887	82,773	86,854
J	Financial intermediation	QTPR	44,990	48,202	63,368	71,530	75,117	79,554	90,790	103,646
K	Real estate, renting and business activities									
	Letting of dwellings including imputed rent of owner occupiers	QTPS	57,261	61,352	64,249	69,298	74,249	76,817	80,222	88,248
	Other real estate, renting and business activities	QTPT	131,099	142,689	150,599	162,909	174,427	183,299	195,669	205,958
K	Total	QTPU	188,360	204,041	214,848	232,207	248,676	260,116	275,891	294,206
L	Public administration and defence (PAD)	QTPV	42,711	45,025	47,528	51,302	55,485	60,066	62,260	63,084
M	Education	QTPW	48,111	51,675	55,099	58,328	61,934	65,739	68,993	73,477

2.3 Gross value added at current b[illegible] prices: by industry[1, 2]

£ Million

			2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
N	Health and social work	QTPX	55,282	59,549	64,493	70,592	75,154	79,965	84,715	88,170
O,P,Q	Other social and personal services, private households with employees and extra-territorial organisations	QTPY	42,086	44,561	48,312	51,804	54,947	57,962	60,126	62,455
G-Q	Total service industries	QTPZ	619,756	660,729	709,122	762,988	809,569	847,001	894,348	948,0[illegible]
B.1g	*All industries*	ABML	864,285	907,594	957,094	1,015,008	1,070,951	1,116,648	1,811,141	1,245,735

[1] Components may not sum to totals as a result of rounding.

[2] Because of differences in the annual and monthly production inquiries, estimates of current price output and gross value added by industry derived from the current price Input-Output Supply and Use Tables are not consistent with the equivalent measures of chained volume measures growth given in 2.4. These differences do not affect GDP totals

Financial Services: Qualifications

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the likely length of time that would be required to complete the QCF Level 4 qualification for financial advisers proposed by the Financial Services Authority. [310954]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Retail Distribution Review is a matter for the FSA, as the independent regulator. Although the qualification requirements have yet to be finalised, in its most recent consultation, "Delivering the Retail Distribution Review", the FSA explained that it expects new qualifications intended for its transitional qualifications list to meet the broad criteria for a Level 4 'Diploma', as defined by the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). A QCF Diploma must be at least 37 credits, where one credit is equal to 10 hours of notional learning time.

Gaming Machines and Lottery Machines

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs have received on the separate definitions of a gaming machine and an automated lottery machine. [310698]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

HM Revenue and Customs have received representations about the tax liability of certain machines that are sometimes referred to as automated lottery machines. A number of appeals have been lodged with the Tribunals Service so it would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310850]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Pension Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners his Department has contacted in relation to its pension credit tax back campaign; how many such pensioners have responded to that campaign; how much has been claimed back *(a)* on average per pensioner and *(b)* in total; and if he will make a statement. [308307]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As part of the Taxback campaign announced at Budget 2009, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have written to all 3.4 million beneficiaries of pension credit to encourage those who are overpaying tax on their bank and building society interest to claim it back and, where eligible, to register to receive future interest payments without tax deducted.

The final letters went out on 3 December and so claims are still being received and more are anticipated. An accurate estimate of the full impact of the campaign could not be provided until all responses have been received and evaluated.

Public Expenditure

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his Department's projections for overall departmental expenditure limits for the years *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [309296]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental expenditure limits are set within a spending review. Beyond the current spending review period no overall or individual departmental expenditure limits have been set.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of revenue to the public purse generated in England which is spent under the block grant system on *(a)* free care for the elderly and *(b)* free prescriptions for people in other parts of the UK. [309861]

Mr. Byrne: Under the Barnett formula the devolved Administrations receive a population based share of comparable changes in spending by UK Government Departments. These calculations are based on overall changes in Departments' provision rather than disaggregated by individual programmes. The costs of devolved policies, for instance on free care for the elderly or free prescription charges, are met by the relevant devolved Administrations within their existing block budgets.

Strategy and Delivery Units

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent officials were employed in the Prime Minister's *(a)* Strategy Unit and *(b)* Delivery Unit in each year since 2007; what the cost of employing these staff was in each of those years; and how many staff were employed in each unit at the latest date for which figures are available. [309850]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of full-time equivalent staff employed at year end (31 December) was:

	Strategy Unit	*Delivery Unit*
2007	46.09	33.64
2008	44.63	34.67
2009	38.50	37.11

The cost of employing these staff in each of these years was:

		£
	Strategy Unit	*Delivery Unit*
2007-2008	3,108.000	2,744,011
2008-2009	3,043.000	2,177,317
2009-2010	2,682,457	2,172,796

Costs of employing staff include salaries, bonuses, overtime and other allowances, as well as other social security and other pension costs.

Tax Allowances

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a version of table 5.2 in chapter 5 of Budget 2009, HC 407, showing the number of persons with marginal deduction rates of *(a)* 60 per cent. or over, *(b)* 70 per cent. or over, *(c)* 80 per cent. or over, *(d)* 90 per cent. or over and *(e)* 100 per cent. or over. [311108]

Mr. Timms: Tables estimating the numbers facing marginal deduction rates over 60 per cent., over 70 per cent., over 80 per cent., over 90 per cent. and over 100 per cent. are published in Budget and pre-Budget report documents. The Government have no plans to change the format these tables are published in.

Tax Yields

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 176W, on tax yields, when he expects the data relating to Pay as You Earn tax for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 will be available. [310611]

Mr. Timms: Estimates for 2007-08 Pay-As-You-Earn tax deducted from pay (excluding pension), by industry, will be published as National Statistics in Table 2.10 on HM Revenue and Customs website in March 2010:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-10.pdf

in accordance with pre-announced publication dates for National Statistics:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/updates/index.htm

The publication date for estimates for 2008-09 will be published on the above website page in due course.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people informed HM Revenue and Customs by 4 January 2010 of previously undeclared overseas income and gains under the most recent tax amnesty; and if he will make a statement. [310673]

Mr. Timms: Approximately 10,000 people have registered an intention to disclose previously undeclared overseas income and gains under the new disclosure opportunity.

The opportunity to register with the scheme closed on 4 January. Those who have registered now have until 12 March 2010 to provide full details of their disclosure through our online facility, and pay what they owe.

VAT

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the temporary reduction in the rate of value added tax on the economy during the recession. [311365]

Mr. Timms: The Government expect the package of stimulus measures announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report to have increased GDP by around 0.5 per cent. percentage posts in 2009. The VAT reduction was a key element of this stimulus and reduced the tax liability for both businesses and households by around £11 billion. It has benefited consumers, where passed on via lower prices, and otherwise has helped to support businesses and jobs, by strengthening cashflow and profits.

VAT: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the additional revenue which will accrue to the Exchequer from *(a)* all alcohol sales and *(b)* beer sales in 2009-10 as a consequence of the change in the rate of value added tax on 1 January 2010. [311310]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The increase in revenue over the period 2009-10 comes solely for the months after VAT was returned to 17.5 per cent. In other words, January 2010 to March 2010. The increase in revenue from VAT rising on 1 January for 2009-10 is estimated at £160 million.

The figures for alcohol are in table 1.2 of the 200 pre-Budget report available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_repindex.htm.

A breakdown for beer was not published.

Welfare Tax Credits

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was paid in interim or emergency payments of tax credits in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; [308191]

(2) how much has been allocated for interim or emergency payments of tax credits in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [308192]

(3) how many requests were received for interim or emergency payments of tax credits in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [308200]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not collated centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost due to the work required to aggregate data from across HM Revenue and Customs. No separate allocation is made for interim/emergency tax credits payments.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 19 January 2010

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the cost of the UK's mission to Afghanistan was funded from *(a)* contingency reserve funds and *(b)* other sources in 2007-08. [311386]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The net additional cost of military operations is funded from the Reserve. For the financial year 2007-08 this amounted to £1.504 billion for Afghanistan. Costs that the Department would have incurred anyway, such as wages and salaries, are not included and are met from the core Defence budget. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation, such as training exercises, are taken into account in arriving at the net claim on the Reserve.

In addition to the cost of military operations there is separate funding for various activities in Afghanistan aimed at promoting peace and stability. In 2007-08 these activities were carried out by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Ministry of Defence under the auspices of the Global Conflict Prevention Pool, which is not part of the Defence budget. These activities amounted to approximately £147 million.

Given the number of Departments involved in our activities in Afghanistan, I am unable to express my Department's spending in percentage terms.

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of all Urgent Operational Requirements for expenditure in Afghanistan in the year 2007-08 was funded from *(a)* the contingency reserve and *(b)* his Department's core budget. [311391]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The net additional cost of military operations, including that for Urgent Operational Requirements (UORs) for theatre-specific equipment, is funded in-year from the Treasury Reserve. For financial year 2007-08 one hundred percent of expenditure on UORs was funded from the Treasury Reserve.

Armed Forces: Estonia

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits were made to Estonia by *(a)* units and *(b)* personnel of HM armed forces in 2009. [311356]

Bill Rammell: HMS Illustrious was the only unit to visit Estonia, in June 2009. There were a number of HM armed forces visits made during the course of the year which are listed as follows:

Representatives from	*Visiting/Reason*	*Date*
The Surgeon General's Department	Estonian Surgeon General	March
MOD Head Office Personnel	Estonian Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence	June, August and September
Permanent Joint Headquarters, supported by the Royal Air Force	Estonian Defence Forces	May and November
Royal Navy	Estonian Navy	September
Army	Attending a Remembrance service of a soldier killed in Afghanistan	August
Royal Air Force	Fly-past for Estonian Victory Parade	June
Royal Air Force	Training Flights	August and October

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of his Department's properties managed by Modern Housing Solutions have reached the EcoHomes06 standard of *(a)* pass, *(b)* good, *(c)* very good and *(d)* excellent; [312066]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to Modern Housing Solutions of upgrading properties it manages under contract to his Department to the energy efficiency standards laid out in the EcoHomes06 sustainability model. [312067]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Given that the Ministry of Defence has only recently started to use the EcoHomes06 standard for major Service Family Accommodation (SFA) improvement projects in England and Wales, no data are yet available. Work to verify assessments for recently completed upgrade projects is under way. No assessment has been made of the cost to upgrade all SFA to the EcoHomes06 standard.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were received by Amec Turner about accommodation for service personnel and their families in each of the last 12 months. [312068]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Turner Estates Solutions took over responsibility for repair call outs in Scotland from Amec Turner in December 2007. During the past 12 months they have received the following complaints about accommodation (both single living and family):

Month	*Number of complaints*
January	12
February	11
March	8
April	12
May	8
June	2
July	2
August	1
September	4
October	3
November	5
December	1
Total	69

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests for repair call-outs were received by Amec Turner in each of the last 12 months. [312069]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Turner Estates Solutions took over responsibility for repair call outs in Scotland from Amec Turner in December 2007. During the last 12 months they have received the following repair call-outs:

Month	*Number of repair call outs*
January	4,715
February	4,037
March	4,471
April	2,926
May	3,999
June	3,111
July	3,166
August	4,105
September	3,308
October	3,742
November	5,065
December	[1]—
Total	42,645

[1] Not available until end of January 2010

This covers the whole of Regional Prime Contract Scotland, including accommodation, both single living and family, and other properties.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect the negative level of retail price index inflation in September 2009 will have on the level of armed forces pensions in the next 12 months. [309734]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Public service pension upratings are linked by primary legislation to those for additional state pensions, such as the state second pension, and the uprating in April 2010 will take account of the rate of inflation over the year to September 2009. As announced at the pre-Budget report 2008, legislation governing uprating for additional state pensions means that in the event of a negative Retail Price Index (RPI), benefit rates will be protected at least in nominal terms (i.e. not reduced on account of deflation), thereby providing an increase in support in real terms. The RPI change for September 2009 was minus 1.4 per cent., so benefits will remain at current levels.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of deferring the Operational Utility Vehicle System programme for two years; and what assessment he has made of the likely trends in *(a)* production and *(b)* deployment of small and medium support vehicles during that period. [311277]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The deferral of the Operational Utility Vehicle System (OUVS) competition will give the MOD the opportunity to consider the latest products from industry, including those from the companies that withdrew from the original OUVS competition. This will allow the MOD to determine the best method of delivering an operational utility vehicle capability for the future. During the period of the two year deferral, the Tactical Support Vehicles purchased as Urgent Operational Requirements will fulfil the OUVS role in Afghanistan. The Department will conduct a thorough review of the commercial and acquisition strategy for OUVS during 2010. This will consider production and delivery schedules, and the capability requirement informed by our operational experience.

Baltic States: Military Aircraft

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what air policing cover is in place to assist in fulfilling NATO's commitment to the Baltic states. [311357]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Baltic states receive the same level of protection and security as all NATO nations. They provide their own Air Surveillance and Command and Control capabilities to support the air policing mission. Fighter aircraft are generated and deployed to the Baltic states by other NATO nations.

Departmental ICT

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each of the last five years. [311086]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD takes any attacks on, or misuse of, its information networks and associated media storage devices very seriously and has robust procedures in place to militate against and investigate such occurrences. Furthermore, new processes, instructions and technological aids are continually being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise the awareness of every individual in the Department with regards to cyber security.

It is not in the public interest or in the interests of the UK's national security for this Department to release any information regarding any hacking attempts on its IT systems as this would enable individuals to deduce how successful these efforts are against the network and so assist such persons in establishing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences.

Within the MOD, there have been no recorded incidents of the perpetration of fraud where an IT system was a material factor. Although a number of suspected incidents have been investigated, statistics relating to those submitted on-line via IT-based systems could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of official issued desktops and laptops centrally reported as stolen from the Department from 2005 to 2009. Figures will continue to be adjusted to incorporate subsequent recoveries of items and the reporting of additional thefts and subsequent clarification of historical incidents. The following figures reflect the latest data held as of 14 January 2010.

Stolen computers 2005 to 2009

	Desktop	*Laptop*
2009	20	78
2008	9	87

Stolen computers 2005 to 2009

	Desktop	Laptop
2007	13	101
2006	28	170
2005	27	130
Total	97	566

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what allowances are available to be paid to witnesses called to give oral evidence to the Iraq Inquiry. [305776]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 430W, to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski).

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 453-55W, on military aircraft: helicopters, what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the service life of the *(a)* Merlin Mk3, *(b)* Merlin Mk3a, *(c)* Sea King Mk4, *(d)* Sea King Mk7, *(e)* Apache, *(f)* Chinook Mk2 and *(g)* Chinook Mk2a; and when he expects a decision to be made on such an extension in each case. [311917]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is not until Main Gate approval for specific upgrades has been obtained that their content, value and time scales can be confirmed.

NATO Defence College: Overseas Aid

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance the UK is providing to the NATO Defence College in Estonia. [311353]

Bill Rammell: The Baltic Defence College in Estonia is a co-operative project between the three Baltic States, and not a NATO institution. NATO does, however, accredit the college's higher command studies course (HCSC). The UK supports the college through provision of a team of three people from the defence science and technology laboratory for one week each year at a cost of £11,000. The team provides instructional support and mentoring for a force planning exercise as part of the HCSC.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost is of developing the *(a)* platform and *(b)* propulsion system for the successor submarine to Trident. [311155]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael).

Paul and Rachel Chandler

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he had with the Chief of Joint Operations on possible rescue operations in relation to Paul and Rachel Chandler on 23 October 2009; [307877]

(2) what instructions he gave to the Royal Navy on possible rescue operations in relation to Paul and Rachel Chandler on 23 October 2009; [307878]

(3) what protocols were used in the decision in respect of a rescue operation in relation to Paul and Rachel Chandler on 23 October 2009. [307879]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: I will write to the hon. Member.

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the private finance initiative between his Department and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to provide search and rescue capability; how many new search and rescue helicopters this initiative will provide; and when he expects such helicopters to enter into service. [311822]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The new helicopters will enter service in 2012 when the new service begins by taking over sites currently operated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and working around each base in turn to ensure continuity of service. The transition of all 12 sites will be completed in 2016. The competition is ongoing and the detailed transition plan and number of aircraft supporting the new service have yet to be finalised.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission has taken *(a)* to reduce electoral fraud and *(b)* to increase levels of voter registration in each year since the Electoral Administration Act 2006 came into effect. [311931]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that in each year since the Electoral Administration Act 2006 came into effect, it has worked with Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Returning Officers and police forces to establish a network of Single Point of Contact officers in every police force, deliver national training seminars for police forces and electoral administrators and provide regular opportunities to share information and good practice on combating electoral fraud.

In addition, the Commission informs me that it has published guidance for electoral administrators and police forces in association with the Association of Chief Police Officers on preventing and detecting electoral malpractice, and has also set and monitored performance standards for EROs and Returning Officers on how to monitor and manage the risk of electoral fraud. The Commission also works with ACPO to collect and analyse data from police forces across Great Britain on cases and allegations of electoral malpractice.

The Commission further informs me that in each year since the Electoral Administration Act came into effect it has carried out public information campaigns to encourage voter registration. These focus on a number of under-registered groups, including people who have recently moved home, certain ethnic minority communities, students and young adults.

The Commission also informs me that it sets performance standards for EROs that aim to improve the completeness and accuracy of the register. It provides guidance and support to help EROs reach these standards.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon (Mr. Streeter), representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent assessment the Electoral Commission has made of progress in increasing the number of voters registered in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [311932]

Mr. Streeter: The Commission informs me that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects and publishes annual electoral registration data showing the number of entries on the local government and parliamentary registers. The most recent figures are for the electoral registers on 1 December 2008 and show an increase in the number of entries on the registers since 1 December 2007, as shown in the following table:

Type of election	*Entries on the electoral registers—December 2007*	*Entries on the electoral registers—December 2008*	*Increase*	*Percentage increase*
Local government	45,920,503	46,147,877	227,374	0.5
Parliamentary	45,082,854	45,194,449	111,595	0.2

The ONS is due to publish figures for the 1 December 2009 electoral registers in February 2010.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310522]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office leases its premises at Dover House, London and Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. The office occupies a floor area of 927.5m^2 in Dover House and 694m^2 in Melville Crescent. Both buildings provide non-standard office accommodation and have listed building status. They provide both office space as well as accommodation that can be used for hosting events.

Information on the value of the premises leased is a matter for the owners of the accommodation.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many iPODs have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311900]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not bought any iPODs.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310813]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no in-house canteen or other catering facilities so therefore does not routinely generate food waste.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Clergy: Misconduct

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 497W, on clergy: misconduct, what his policy is on initiating discussions on the report of the commission of inquiry with each of the parties specified in the question; and if he will make a statement. [311118]

Paul Goggins: I have written to the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to say that I stand ready to assist him in any way possible to progress this matter and that I am available to meet with him should he wish to do so.

This is also my position in respect of the Irish Government although I have not received any representations from it.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many iPODs have been bought by the Government Equalities Office since its establishment; and at what cost. [311897]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not purchased any iPODS.

Departmental Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what redesigns of websites operated by her Office have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306195]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office website was redesigned once in 2008.

(a) the cost was £46,737.99

(b) the date of completion was 21 December 2008.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the standard template contract for the provision of *(a)* goods and *(b)* services used by the Government Equalities Office. [309425]

Michael Jabez Foster: Copies of the General Conditions of Contract for Services and the Short Form of Conditions for Contracts for Goods and Services have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the results from her Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey to her Department was. [311476]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office undertook its last staff survey in November 2009 as part of a cross-Government initiative and we expect to receive our results on 28 January 2010. Following internal analysis and communication we will publish our results together with any improvement steps on our external GEO website. ORC International undertook the cross-Government survey and we are yet to receive our invoice; we have estimated the cost at £13,000.

Employment: Bullying

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 378W, on dignity at work, and page 12 of the Dignity and Respect at Work policy, what is included in her Department's definition of non-verbal conduct that may constitute sexual harassment in the workplace. [308709]

Michael Jabez Foster: Within the Dignity and Respect at Work policy we have provided examples of the types of non-verbal conduct that may constitute sexual harassment in the workplace. We do not intend this list to be exhaustive as it should cover any type of behaviour or action which is not spoken which an individual finds offensive. The examples in the policy are: pin-up calendars; sexually explicit materials; pornography; computer pornography; sexual graffiti.

Local Government: Human Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the *(a)* title and *(b)* remit is of each individual project being undertaken as part of the Human Rights and Local Government Project; and when each individual report will be published. [311783]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Human Rights and Local Government Project is run by the British Institute of Human Rights with the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and is not a project of the Government Equalities Office or Government.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Office are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate she has made of the cost of such attendance. [310849]

Michael Jabez Foster: No Ministers or officials are planning to attend.

Pay: Derbyshire

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the gender pay gap in Derbyshire. [311381]

Maria Eagle: The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2009 showed that the gender pay gap, comparing the median hourly earnings of all men and women, was: 23.5 per cent. for Derbyshire; 23.3 per cent. for the east midlands; and 22.0 per cent. for the UK as a whole.

For full-time employees, the pay gap for Derbyshire is 13.5 per cent. For part-time employees the pay gap is -4.3 per cent., i.e. male part-time employees are paid less than female part-time employees.

The overall national pay gap has fallen from 27.5 per cent. in 1997 to 22.0 per cent. in 2009, but more progress is needed and the Equality Bill includes tough measures to improve gender pay transparency.

Religious Buildings: Registration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 524W, on religious buildings: registration, what the policy of the Government Equalities Office is on the application of the 1970 Court of Appeal Segerdal case to public authorities in respect of religious worship which does not involve reverence to a deity. [312054]

Michael Jabez Foster: Domestic discrimination, for which the Government Equalities Office is responsible, defines religion or belief as

> "any religion or any religious or philosophical belief or any lack of such religion or belief".

The question of whether any exemption from paying rates on a building which may be a place of public religious worship, which is what the Segerdal case is concerned with, remains a matter for the Valuation Office Agency and will be unaffected by the provisions of discrimination law.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Better Off in Work Credit Guarantee

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, what estimate she has made of the number of people who would be eligible for each benefit under the better off in work credit guarantee; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the financial modelling undertaken by or on behalf of her Department in respect of this policy. [311934]

Jim Knight: Under the current tax and benefit systems, the combination of the minimum wage, tax credits and other targeted support such as the in work credit and return to work credit provide gains to work in excess of £40 a week for the vast majority of individuals.

As a consequence, when the better off in work credit (BWC) is rolled out nationally, of those who move from benefits to work in each year, we expect only a small minority—no more than around 100,000 a year—to qualify for the BWC.

Most recipients of BWC are likely to be under the age of 50 and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. Some customers will also be in receipt of support for mortgage interest payments.

A copy of the White Paper, Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment, is in the Library. The impact assessment for the White Paper explains the fiscal and economic costs and benefits of introducing the BWC. A copy of the impact assessment has been placed in the Library.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, what estimate she has made of the number of recipients of carer's allowance likely to be affected by an increase in the earnings limit; and when she expects to implement this policy. [311933]

Jonathan Shaw: The carer's allowance earnings limit will be increased from £95 to £100 in April 2010. In the impact assessment published alongside the Employment White Paper 'Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment', we estimated that up to 40,000 carer's allowance recipients could benefit.

Council Tax Benefits: Automated Credit Transfer

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable has been set for implementation of the recommendations of the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government on an automated system of payment of council tax benefit to pensioners. [311479]

Helen Goodman: In the longer term, we want to ensure that council tax benefit is delivered as accessibly, simply and securely as possible. We are continuing to research how better use could be made of data to identify those who are eligible for council tax benefit, and deliver their entitlement more proactively. This includes assessing the feasibility of using data shared with local authorities in order to build up profiles of people likely to be entitled to council tax benefit but not claiming.

Incapacity Benefit

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants there were in Lewes constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [311173]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

The number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants in Lewes parliamentary constituency—May 2009

	Number
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	2,330
Employment and support allowance	290

Notes:
1. Caseload has been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data published at
www.nomisweb.co.uk
(incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance)
and
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
(incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance).
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Incapacity Benefit: Bexleyheath

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants there were resident in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) the London borough of Bexley on the latest date for which figures are available. [311565]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

The number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants in Bexley local authority and Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency—May 2009

	Incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance	*Employment and support allowance*
Bexley local authority	6,100	800
Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency	2,300	310

Notes:
1. Caseload has been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data published at
www.nomisweb.co.uk
(incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance)
and http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
(incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance).
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, what estimate she has made of the number of full-time equivalent mental health co-ordinators who will need to be recruited as part of the national network in Jobcentre Plus; when she expects such recruitment to commence; and when she expects the national network to be fully operational nationwide. [311936]

Jonathan Shaw: Each of the 48 Jobcentre Plus districts currently has a mental health co-ordinator in post. The posts were launched on 7 December 2009, and provide a tangible example of "Working our way to better mental health: a framework for action and realising ambitions: Better employment support for people with a mental health condition" in action.

The recent White Paper made a commitment to doubling the capacity of the mental health co-ordinators, providing one full-time equivalent co-ordinator in each district. This will further extend and embed the role of the co-ordinators. The extended role is expected to be in place across the network from April.

Pathways to Work

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what continuing support will be provided for employment and support allowance claimants who do not move into work after participating in Pathways to Work. [310623]

Jonathan Shaw: Pathways to Work is a flexible menu of different support options tailored to the needs of the individual. It includes a series of work-focused interviews, participation in which is mandatory for most new employment and support allowance claimants. Further, and continuing, employment support from Pathways to Work can be accessed on a voluntary basis, at any time, by all employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits claimants. Employment and support allowance customers can also get continuing support from our range of specialist disability programmes such as Access to Work.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department issues on medical assessments of benefit claimants. [311064]

Jonathan Shaw: Atos Healthcare, the DWP Medical Services contractor, when issuing the medical assessment appointment letter send an information leaflet AL1C covering:

About the medical assessment
How to contact Atos Healthcare
What to bring to the assessment
Claiming expenses
Bringing people with you
When to arrive
Length of the assessment
What happens at the assessment
How to obtain a copy of the report
What happens next
What to expect from Atos Healthcare and how to complain.

Unemployment: Disabled

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she has taken to reduce the level of unemployment amongst disabled people resident in Lewes constituency since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [311171]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of steps have been taken to reduce levels of unemployment among disabled people since 2001.

In July 2001 the new deal for disabled people was launched. This is a programme of advice and practical support, which helps people move from disability and health-related benefits into paid employment. The programme is delivered through a network of 'Job Brokers' offering different services, which can be tailored to a customer's individual needs.

April 2008 saw the introduction of Pathways to Work in Surrey and Sussex, which includes the Lewes constituency. This programme helps claimants of incapacity benefits or employment and support allowance get work by offering individual support and access to a wide range of help, including work-focused interviews.

The public consultation 'Helping people achieve their full potential: Improving Specialist Disability Employment Services' was launched on 3 December 2007 to help shape the future of specialist disability employment provision. The new programme, Work Choice, which replaces existing specialist disability employment programmes, will be introduced in October 2010.

Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefits for new customers nationally on 27 October 2008. Employment and support allowance has a greater work-focus than its predecessors. It also has a more modern and robust medical assessment, which helps to identify the help that people need to ensure they can fulfil their potential.

Access to Work is a specialist disability programme that helps disabled people overcome work-related obstacles. It is flexible, easy to access and shows high levels of satisfaction from disabled people and their employers. The Access to Work base budget has been increased from £15 million in 1994-95 to £81 million in 2009-10 and will continue to grow to £138 million by 2013-14. We are also working to improve the programme to ensure it helps people with mental health conditions more effectively.

The refreshed jobseeker's allowance regime and flexible new deal went live in Surrey and Sussex in October 2009. This is designed to offer personalised and more intensive support to customers, including those with disabilities, to help overcome barriers to work.

More generally, all jobseekers have full access to Jobcentre Plus vacancy services to enhance their employment opportunities. We recognise that some disabled customers may have a more limited availability and scope to find and carry out certain types of work. Therefore, at the start of their claim customers are asked to tell their adviser about any disabilities that might have such an impact, and can restrict their work search activity and availability for work if those restrictions are reasonable, given their condition.

Customers with a disability can volunteer to be fast-tracked to the six month stage of jobseeker's allowance, subject to the Jobcentre Plus personal advisers' agreement. This allows disabled people to access additional intensive support earlier in their claim.

Disability employment advisers are available to provide specialist support to people facing employment barriers because of a disability. They can advise customers about a range of specialised support available, and provide advice on job retention if a person is concerned about losing their job because of their disability. They are supported by work psychologists and various external disability specialists.

Winter Fuel Payments

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Milton Keynes received the winter fuel allowance in 2008-09. [311095]

Angela Eagle: In winter 2008-09 12.3 million people received a winter fuel payment in Great Britain (information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office). Some 17,350 people received payments in Milton Keynes South-West constituency and 16,810 people received payments in Milton Keynes North-East constituency.

Notes:

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Work Choice and Access to Work schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's White Paper on "Building Britain's Recovery", what steps her Department is taking to expand the Work Choice and Access to Work schemes; what additional funding her Department is making available for this purpose; and what estimate she has made of the number of people expected to participate as a consequence of the expansion of the schemes. [311935]

Jonathan Shaw: As stated in Chapter 4 of the White Paper, "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment" (December 2009),

> "we will increase funding for our specialist disability employment programmes supporting those with the greatest needs into work."

We will set out further details in due course.

WALES

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many iPODs have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311899]

Mr. Hain: None.

Industrial Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether written health and safety advice is issued to each new employee in his Department. [311373]

Mr. Hain: Each new member of staff receives an induction pack which includes guidance on health and safety issues.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Committees: Costs

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost to the public purse has been of Regional *(a)* Select and *(b)* Grand Committees since their appointment. [311582]

Nick Harvey: The cost to the end of December 2009 is estimated to have been:

	£000
Regional Select Committees	354
Regional Grand Committees	19
Total	373

House of Commons: Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how long the offices at 14 Tothill Street assigned to the House of Commons have been empty; what the cost of *(a)* rent and *(b)* business rates in respect of the property has been in this period; and when the offices are expected to be occupied by the House of Commons Service. [311525]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons' area of No. 14 Tothill Street has been empty since the building was leased in October 2007. Following completion of the lease, essential building work on the whole of the premises has been carried out at the expense of the landlord. Common areas shared between the Lords and Commons are presently in use and fit-out work is proceeding on the floors that are to be solely occupied by the House of Commons, for which the estimated completion date is October 2010.

The Commons share of the total rent paid to date, including the current quarter to 25 March 2010, amounts to some £4.8 million (including VAT); and the Commons share of business rates invoiced to 31 December 2009 has been £175,000.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many external consultants work for his Department. [303230]

Mr. Simon: Currently the Department has 34 agency staff and contractors working solely for DCMS. This figure does not include external consultants engaged to undertake coaching, training, and/or facilitation activities, who will work in a number of organisations in addition to DCMS.

Gaming Machines

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, on the Gambling Act 2005, if he will assess the merits of bringing forward proposals on the availability of higher prizes on gaming machines in commercial snooker and pool clubs for consideration separate from his Department's planned review of category B gaming machines; and if he will discuss that matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [311312]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is a range of issues relating to category B gaming machines which need to be considered together to ensure that the cumulative impact of any changes is fully taken into account. It is therefore right that we consider proposals on the availability of higher prizes on gaming machines in commercial snooker and pool clubs as part of my Department's review of category B gaming machines.

Any subsequent consultation document outlining proposals for the future would, in the usual way, be accompanied by a draft impact assessment setting out their merits and any potential risks.

I have no plans to discuss this matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Parliamentary Questions: Correspondence

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to have printed in the *Official Report* all letters sent by Arts Council England to hon. Members in response to parliamentary questions. [311875]

Margaret Hodge: Copies of the letters sent by the chief executive of Arts Council England in response to parliamentary questions will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. There is no plan to publish them in the *Official Report*.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Land: Property Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for High Peak (Tom Levitt) of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 646W, on common land: property development, whether the planned consultation on registration of village greens will consider restrictions on the ability to register a village green. [311488]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are considering a wide range of options for inclusion in the consultation paper, some of which will relate to the criteria for registration of new town or village greens.

Dairy Farming: Manpower

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of dairy farmers in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [310674]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* Changes in the number of farmers are just one element of the structural changes that have taken place in the sector. The long-term trend in dairy production is towards fewer, larger and more productive herds. The following table provides the fuller picture on the structural changes in the sector and shows how the decline in the number of dairy farms and dairy farmers has been offset by an increase in average herd size and milk yields.

The number of principal farmers on dairy holdings is not yet available for 2009. The decrease in the numbers of dairy farmers in England between 1997 and 2008 (-34 per cent.) is less than the fall in the number of holdings with dairy cows between 2008 and 2009 (-48 per cent.). This reflects a rise in the average number of farmers per farm over the period as the average farm size has increased.

However, the numbers of dairy cows have decreased by less (-30 per cent.), reflecting a rise in the average herd size, and (at the UK level) milk yields have increased by 22 per cent. over the period, so that total UK milk production has fallen by 8 per cent. between 1997 and 2009.

	Number of dairy farms in England		*Number of farmers on dairy holdings in England*		*Number of dairy cows in England (thousand)*			
	(a)	*(b)*	*(a)*	*(b)*	*(a)*	*(b)*	*UK milk production (million litres) (c)*	*Average UK milk yield (litres per cow per year)*
1997	—	18,007	—	35,104	—	1,702	14,419	5,790
1998	—	17,014	—	34,405	—	1,660	14,213	5,775
1999	—	16,313	—	33,216	—	1,661	14,580	5,964
2000	—	15,219	—	31,418	—	1,576	14,071	5,979
2001	—	14,293	—	30,178	—	1,490	14,284	6,346
2002	—	14,537	—	30,425	—	1,462	14,440	6,493
2003	—	13,770	—	28,918	—	1,435	14,576	6,621
2004	—	13,264	—	28,057	—	1,374	14,127	6,763
2005	—	12,918	—	26,168	—	1,311	14,052	6,986
2006	11,522	11,079	22,483	25,706	1,259	1,290	13,902	6,977
2007	10,907	—	21,082	—	1,236	—	13,619	6,913
2008	10,331	—	20,122	—	1,199	—	13,319	6,943
2009	9,805	n/a	n/a	—	1,163	—	13,208	7,084
Percentage change between 1997 and 2009 (d)	-48		-34		-30		-8	22

n/a = Not yet available

Notes:

(a) Sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). Defined as the number of holdings on 1 June each year with more than 10 dairy cows in the milking herd. CTS became the main source of cattle data from 2006 onwards. Results prior to this were sourced from the June Survey of Agriculture but are not directly comparable.

(b) Sourced from the June Survey of Agriculture.

(c) Sourced from DEFRA and RPA statistics.

(d) Allows for the break in series in 2006 with the switch to the CTS. For the number of dairy farmers the change is between 1997 and 2008.

Dairy Farming: Staffordshire

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance his Department has provided to dairy farmers in Staffordshire as a result of the entry into administration of Dairy Farmers of Britain. [309867]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We worked closely with Dairy Farmers of Britain (DFoB) Members Council, the Receivers (PricewaterhouseCoopers) and others towards our common goal of minimising the impacts of those affected, particularly farmer members of DFoB including those in Staffordshire, following DFoB's entry into administration last June.

We ensured that all available assistance was given to those facing difficulties. This included advice from DFoB Members Council, the Receivers, the National Farmers Union and Regional Development Agencies. For example, there is the Business Link's Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and HMRC's Business Payment Support Service, which might enable those affected to defer certain tax and national insurance payments. The Secretary of State also wrote to both the British Bankers' Association and the Agricultural Industries Confederation to ask their members to consider any short term cash flow problems faced by farmers sympathetically. In the succeeding weeks, 97 per cent. of the 1,813 active DFoB members found new contracts and buyers for their milk.

Dairy farmers, including those in Staffordshire, are eligible for payments under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). The Rural Payments Agency has made continued progress in making more timely SPS payments and this has helped farmers' cash flow, with around £1.5 billion (just under 78 per cent.) paid by the end of December under the 2009 scheme.

In addition, dairy farmers are eligible for funding under DEFRA's £600 million Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13. This includes over £107 million which is being targeted specifically at the livestock sector to help it meet the particular challenges that it faces. Through this, Advantage West Midlands are able to assist farmers through capital investments to increase competitiveness or diversification into other activities.

Domestic Waste: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information the Environment Agency holds on the number of fixed-penalty notices issued by local authorities for household waste offences. [311829]

Dan Norris: Neither the Environment Agency nor DEFRA holds information on fixed-penalty notices issued by local authorities.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff work in the Environment Agency's *(a)* flood and coastal risk management, *(b)* water resources, *(c)* fisheries, *(d)* navigation, *(e)* recreation and conservation, *(f)* water quality, *(g)* process industry regulation, *(h)* radioactive substances regulation, *(i)* Integrated Pollution Prevention Control and *(j)* waste regulation department. [310746]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of Environment Agency staff who work in the areas requested.

These staff are involved in work to reduce flood risk, to protect and improve water, land and air, to work with businesses and others to use resources wisely and to reduce climate change and its consequences.

Function	*Number of full time equivalent staff*
Flood and Coastal Risk Management	3,772
Water Resources	916
Fisheries	386
Navigation	196
Recreation and Conservation	327
Water Quality	1,210
Industry Regulation	475
Radioactive Substances Regulation	80
Waste Regulation	1,482
Total	8,844

Work on Process Industry Regulation and Integrated Pollution Prevention Control is now carried out by the Environment Agency's Industry Regulation Department.

Fly Tipping: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of incidents of fly-tipping in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last five years. [311013]

Dan Norris: The number of fly-tipping incidents and enforcement actions taken are not recorded at parliamentary ward level.

The number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded on the Flycapture database by the Borough of Chelmsford in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Number of incidents
2004-05	1,048
2005-06	517
2006-07	596
2007-08	561
2008-09	471

The number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded by local authorities on the Flycapture database is published annually on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Livestock: Tagging

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the agricultural industry of cross-compliance inspections carried out by *(a)* the Rural Payments Agency, *(b)* the Environment Agency, *(c)* Animal Health, *(d)* the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and *(e)* his Department under (i) cattle and (ii) sheep identification rules in each of the last five years. [310646]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* No estimate has been made of the cost to the agricultural industry of the cross-compliance cattle and sheep inspections. However, with regard to these inspections, farmers need not do anything more than they are already required to do by the pre-existing cattle and sheep legislation.

Farmers are not charged for the costs of an inspection but may incur some costs in terms of time spent with inspectors. Significant non-compliance with EU cross-compliance requirements may result in additional inspections and/or the reduction or exclusion of their single payment scheme claim. For individual farmers, the costs of these will vary depending on the degree of non-compliance.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 8 December 2009 on the UK egg industry. [310659]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* I replied to my hon. Friend for Walsall North's letter on 18 January 2010.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308513]

Dan Norris: Under the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, employees have a duty to inform their employer if they are arrested and refused bail, arrested and released on bail or if they are convicted of any criminal offence. This does not apply to a traffic offence unless an official car was involved, or the penalty included imprisonment or a disqualification from driving. This requirement is reflected in DEFRA's Disciplinary Procedure.

Where applicable, this information is held individually on the personnel files of staff in DEFRA and its Executive Agencies and collating it would involve inspecting each individual file. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector: Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects his Department to publish its third report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service. [310825]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We intend to publish the report in February. The lateness in publishing the report this year has been caused by late receipt of data needed to complete the report.

River Lune

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether British Waterways classifies the River Lune at Halton as navigable. [311738]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways is not the Navigation Authority for the River Lune. We have no knowledge of a current navigation authority for the River Lune and it is not classed as a statutory navigation at Halton.

Rural Payments Agency: Labour Turnover

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people *(a)* entered and *(b)* left the employment of the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years. [310648]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* The number of people that have entered and left the employment of the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

Staff type	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Entered employment							
Casual staff	506	240	72	0	0	0	818
Fixed term appointment	10	332	879	304	106	0	1,631
Permanent	48	234	108	258	30	0	678
Total	564	806	1,059	562	136	0	3,127
Left employment							
Casual staff	440	378	170	33	1	0	1,022
Fixed term appointment	167	84	306	392	237	3	1,189
Permanent	555	209	148	160	218	4	1,294
Total	1,162	671	624	585	456	7	3,505

Casual and fixed-term appointment staff are those who have a contract with a fixed end date. The term "casual staff" ceased to be used in light of regulatory changes to ensure equitable treatment of fixed term staff.

The reduction in permanent staff entering the agency, coupled with the increase in numbers of permanent staff leaving, is in line with the agency's strategy to reduce its headcount as part of efficiency savings and to ensure the agency has the right skills at the right grade and location to maximise its use of resources.

The increase in permanent staff entering in 2008 was due to a one-off exercise to strengthen the agency's experience and reduce reliance on temporary roles and more expensive contractors by converting high numbers of temporary staff roles into fewer, permanent roles.

RPA constantly reviews all resources in line with its business requirements. As part of normal business practice the agency has employed staff on a temporary, fixed-term basis to assist with specific tasks linked to the cyclical nature of scheme payments. This included work on the single payment scheme particularly in the early years after its introduction.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many proposals for *(a)* special areas of conservation and *(b)* special protection areas in the UK offshore marine environment beyond the 12 nautical mile limit the Government have submitted to the European Commission since November 1999. [311079]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Five proposals for special areas of conservation (SACs) beyond 12 nautical miles have been submitted to the European Commission since November 1999. These include: the Darwin Mounds off the North West coast of Scotland, Haig Fras off the South West coast of England and Stanton Banks off the West coast of Scotland which protect reefs, and Scanner Pockmark and Braemar Pockmarks in the Northern North Sea, which both protect submarine structures made by leaking gases. These sites were all submitted to the European Commission in August 2008. To date, no Special Protection Areas (SPAs) beyond 12 nautical miles have been submitted to the European Commission.

Tomatoes: Morocco

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken in response to the breach by Morocco of the *(a)* export volumes and *(b)* input prices provisions of the Partnership Agreement with the EU in respect of tomato exports. [309412]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The EU Commission is responsible for the negotiation, monitoring and control of the Partnership Agreement. This includes monitoring of the situation via analysis of customs import data as well as market intelligence and prices gathered from member states, particularly Spain and France who are most affected by such imports. We understand that Commission officials regularly meet with the Moroccan authorities and representatives of their horticulture sector to ensure compliance with the Agreement. It should be noted that there is no limit on the amount of tomatoes that Morocco can import into the EU. The agreement includes a quota which can be imported at a preferential rate of import duty, but imports outside are subject to the normal rates of import duty.

HEALTH

Chlorpromazine Hydrochloride

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the (i) potential risks to health and (ii) other effects of chlorpromazine hydrochloride in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [311610]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Chlorpromazine belongs to a class of drugs called antipsychotics which are mainly used to treat mental health conditions including schizophrenia and other psychoses.

The safety, efficacy and quality of each medicine, including chlorpromazine hydrochloride is thoroughly evaluated as part of the licensing procedure by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and monitored throughout the lifecycle of the medicine. Prescribing guidance for healthcare professionals to optimise the safe use of antipsychotics is contained within the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for the medicines and is also available in the British National Formulary distributed to doctors and pharmacists; this information is reflected in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) that should accompany the medicine. Guidance on the use of antipsychotics has also been issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Since the marketing of chlorpromazine, the MHRA in conjunction with its independent scientific advisory committee, the Commission on Human Medicines and its predecessors, has kept the safety of chlorpromazine and other antipsychotics under close review. In recent years, emerging safety data have been considered on a number of occasions by the MHRA at a European level with particular focus on the effects of antipsychotics on the heart, the risk of stroke in the elderly and the risk of venous thromboembolic events. As a result of these reviews, the SmPC and the PIL for antipsychotics have been updated accordingly to reflect the findings of these reviews. The MHRA has also informed healthcare professionals and patients of the outcome of these reviews and the updated prescribing guidance through the regular drug safety bulletin, Drug Safety Update, and information posted on the MHRA website.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has provided to clinicians on the use of chlorpromazine hydrochloride for treatment of patients in mental health care facilities. [311611]

Phil Hope: Clinicians are expected to take National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance fully into account, such as the clinical guidance on schizophrenia revised by NICE in March 2009. Ultimately, clinical decisions are made according to a doctor's own assessment of an individual patient's needs.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310811]

Phil Hope: In August 2009 the Department piloted a scheme to collect and compost food waste from one of our London buildings using a social enterprise called Aardvark Recycling. The amount of food waste collected and composted through this service from August 2009 to December 2009 was 3.135 tonnes.

The Department is now planning to extend this scheme to its other buildings in London.

The amount of food waste generated in the Department for previous years is as follows:

	Tonnes
April 2006 to March 2007	14.33
April 2007 to March 2008	13.69
April 2008 to March 2009	13.99
April 2009 to December 2009	9.37

General Practitioners: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of GP surgeries in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* each Lancashire district are open (i) in the evenings and (i) at weekends. [311306]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, information relevant to the Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) areas is shown in the following table:

	Percentage of general practitioner (GP) practices offering extended opening hours as at July 2009
Central Lancashire PCT	64.4 (56 of 87)
East Lancashire PCT	87.7 (57 of 65)
North Lancashire PCT	69.2 (39 of 27)
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	89.7 (26 of 29)
Blackpool PCT	73.9 (17 of 23)

Note:
Extended opening hours cover surgeries that are open before 8.00am, after 6.30pm and on Saturdays and Sundays.
Source:
Department of Health

Health Services: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the *(a)* South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust and *(b)* South Essex Mental Health Trust has spent on advertising in the last 12 months; [311099]

(2) how many officials employed by *(a)* South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust and *(b)* South Essex Mental Health Trust at each pay band were eligible for performance bonuses and special bonuses in each of the last five years; how many people received each type of bonus; and what the (i) average and (ii) payment was for each type of bonus at each pay band; [311251]

(3) how much the Chief Executive of *(a)* South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust and *(b)* South Essex Mental Health Trust was given in performance bonuses and special bonuses in each of the last five years; what the average payment was for each type of bonus; what maximum payment was for each type of bonus; and if he will make a statement; [311253]

(4) what the salary of the Chief Executive of *(a)* South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust and *(b)* South Essex Mental Health Trust was in each of the last five years; [311254]

(5) what the turnover rate of staff of each grade employed by the *(a)* South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust and *(b)* South Essex Mental Health Trust was in the last six months; [311280]

(6) how many employees of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age (i) entered and (ii) left the employment of the (A) South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust and (B) South Essex Mental Health Trust in each of the last six months. [311281]

Phil Hope: The information requested is a matter for South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust. We have written to Lorraine Cabel, chair of South Essex Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's inquiries. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Health Services: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of NHS waiting list times in Preston since 1997. [311148]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data showing the median in-patient and out-patient waiting times for the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and their predecessor organisations for the dates where data are available has been placed in the Library.

In addition, referral to treatment medians and performance figures are as follows:

Admitted (adjusted)

Central Lancashire PCT: 6.1 weeks, 94.2 per cent.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: 7.6 weeks, 93.4 per cent.

Non-admitted

Central Lancashire PCT: 4.6 weeks, 97.0 per cent.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: 4.5 weeks, 97.1 per cent.

Hospital Beds: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many beds were available in NHS hospitals in Preston in each year since 1997; [311067]

(2) how many beds were available in NHS hospitals in Preston in each year since 1997. [311152]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of beds available in the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and its predecessor trusts in each year since 1997 is shown in the following tables.

Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust

	Beds in wards open overnight	*Beds in wards open day only*	*Total beds in wards open overnight and day only*
1996-97	370	11	381
1997-98	408	13	421
1998-99	398	15	413
1999-00	410	18	428
2000-01	420	20	440
2001-02	1,228	48	1,276

Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

	Beds in wards open overnight	*Beds in wards open day only*	*Total beds in wards open overnight and day only*
1996-97	812	14	826
1997-98	775	14	789
1998-99	772	14	786
1999-00	772	14	786
2000-01	774	36	810
2001-02	—	—	—

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

	Beds in wards open overnight	*Beds in wards open day only*	*Total beds in wards open overnight and day only*
2002-03	1,156	45	1,201
2003-04	1,172	46	1,218
2004-05	1,157	43	1,200
2005-06	1,101	33	1,134
2006-07	1,041	62	1,103
2007-08	1,056	73	1,129
2008-09	1,067	75	1,142

Note:

Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust and Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust merged to form Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in 2002. 2001-02 data submitted by Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust also included the data for Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

Source:

Department of Health Knowledge and Intelligence

Life Expectancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the healthy life expectancy rate was for people from each socio-economic group in each of the last three years. [311718]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the healthy life expectancy rate was for people from each socio-economic group in each of the last three years. I am replying in his absence. (311718)

There are currently no available figures on healthy life expectancy by socio-economic group. An article reporting healthy life expectancy by Registrar General's Social Class in 2001-03 will be published on February 24th 2010, and will be accessible on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the healthy life expectancy rate was for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each of the last three years. [311719]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the healthy life expectancy rate was for (a) men and (b) women in each of the last three years. I am replying in his absence. (311719)

Healthy life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages. The table below provides the healthy life expectancy at birth for (a) men and (b) women in England, for 2004-06 (the latest period available).

Table 1: Healthy life expectancy at birth[1], England, 2004-06[2]

	Healthy life expectancy (years)
Males	68.5
Females	70.7

[1] Healthy life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would live in 'Good' or 'Fairly good' health if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality and morbidity rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality and morbidity among those living in the area in each time period, rather than among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live in 'Good' or 'Fairly good' health, both because the mortality and morbidity rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Three year rolling average, based on self-reported prevalence of 'Good' or 'Fairly good' health and deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each *(a)* primary care trust, *(b)* hospital trust and *(c)* mental health trust spent on redundancy pay for members of the trust board in each of the last three years. [310799]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the form requested. Total costs of redundancy pay over the last three years is set out in the following table:

National health service redundancies, 2006-07 to 2008-09

			£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Strategic health authorities	98,185	4,661	5,286
Primary care trusts	84,517	66,015	14,984
NHS trusts[1]	86,596	62,273	23,633

[1] Information regarding the cost of redundancy for foundation trusts is not collected centrally.

Source:

NHS Summarised Accounts, 2006-07 to 2008-09

Surgery: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area underwent elective surgery in each of the last five years. [311011]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of elective finished admission episodes (FAEs) where there was a procedure or intervention recorded in Chelmsford local authority district of residence, 2004-05 to 2008-09 is in the following table. Information is not held regarding parliamentary constituency:

	Number of elective FAEs
2008-09	18,517
2007-08	16,157
2006-07	12,302
2005-06	12,465
2004-05	12,362

Note:

Finished admission episodes: an FAE is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Written Questions: Government Responses

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 301022 and *(b)* 300382, on performance pay awards, tabled on 18 November 2009; [310824]

(2) when he expects to answer Question *(a)* 301022 and *(b)* 300382 on non-consolidated performance pay awards, tabled on 18 November 2009. [311855]

Phil Hope: The answers to parliamentary questions 301022 and 300382 tabled on 18 November 2009 will appear shortly.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 659W, on aviation: security, when the code of practice will be finalised; and which airport operators are working with his Department on its development. [311087]

Paul Clark: The code of practice is under urgent development and will be finalised as quickly as possible. Officials are working with a representative cross section of individual airport operators.

Bus Lanes: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles of priority bus lanes have been introduced in Preston since 1997. [311072]

Mr. Khan: This information is not collected centrally.

Bus Services: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many smartcard concessionary bus passes have been issued to residents of Chesterfield constituency in the most recent period for which figures [illegible] available. [310936]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Chesterfield is part of the Derbyshire county concessionary travel scheme. The last information held by the Department was that as of 12 January 2010, the Derbyshire county scheme had issued 245,196 smartcard concessionary passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 90W, on Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: tolls, what the evidential basis is for the assertion that traffic levels between 06.00 and 22.00 generally exceed the crossing's capacity; if he will place in the Library a copy of the data on which that assertion is based; and to which EU directives he made reference in the answer. [311116]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport's consultation document on proposed changes to charges at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing (December 2006), included information on the traffic levels at the Crossing which was the evidence upon which proposals for the timing of charges was based. A copy of this document is available from the Library of the House.

In April 2009, the Department also published the Dartford River Crossing Study into Capacity Requirements which includes a later analysis of vehicle flows at the Dartford Crossing. This report is available from the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/capacityrequirements/dartfordrivercrossing/

and a copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

European Union Directive 1999/62/EC, as modified by European Union Directives 2006/38/EC and 2006/103/EC, applies to the levying of certain tolls and user charges on heavy goods vehicles. EU Directive 1999/62/EC was transposed into UK law by the "Eurovignette Regulations" (The Heavy Goods Vehicles (Charging for the Use of Certain Infrastructure on the Trans-European Road Network) Regulations 2009, SI 2009/1914) which contain an exemption for non-discriminatory road user charging schemes specifically designed to combat time and place-related traffic congestion, as at the Dartford Crossing.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311267]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has paid 92.62 per cent. of valid invoices received in December 2009 within 10 days measured against the total number of 19,990 valid invoices received.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any citizen juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008. [311625]

Chris Mole: Since October 2008 the Department for Transport and its agencies have not hosted any citizen juries or summits.

Driving Standards Agency: Internet

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Driving Standards Agency has spent on *(a)* Twitter and *(b)* other online communications systems in each of the last three years. [311039]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has spent the following on *(a)* Twitter and *(b)* other online communication systems in the last three years:

(a) Twitter—DSA established a free Twitter presence in May 2009. The Agency is not required to pay for this facility.

(b) The costs of the DSA corporate website (dsa.gov.uk) are shown in the following table. These costs include web-hosting, site security, the use of online media to deliver public consultations, development of online communication to increase take-up of DSA's online services and to make available corporate information.

	Amount (£)
2006-07	95,841.35
2007-08	63,214.03
2008-09	112,006.37

In addition, DSA has online communication costs for:

"A Learning to Drive" online marketing campaign was run at a cost of £11,690 (during 2007-2008).

A five month marketing campaign to promote the Agency's "Enhanced Rider Scheme" (ERS) at a cost of £52,940, in 2009.

DSA is currently trialling a new email alert system from GovDelivery at a cost of £5,000.

Driving Standards Agency: Pay

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many full-time equivalent employees of the Driving Standards Agency are in the salary band *(a)* £150,000 and above, *(b)* £100,000 to £149,999, *(c)* £80,000 to £99,999, *(d)* £60,000 to £79,999, *(e)* £40,000 to £59,999, *(f)* £25,000 to £39,999 and *(g)* £24,999 and under. [311036]

Paul Clark: The number of full-time equivalent staff, employed by the Driving Standards Agency within the specified salary band rates, is shown in the following table:

Salary band rates	*Total staff employed at 31 December 2009*
£24,999 and under	1,910
£25,000 to £39,999	522
£40,000 to £59,999	46
£60,000 to £79,999	10
£80,000 to £99,999	0
£100,000 to £149,999	1
£150,000 and over	0

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was claimed in expenses by each member of the senior management of the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last three years. [311037]

Paul Clark: Expenses claimed by directors and the chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency for the last three financial years are shown in the following table:

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
R. Thew	4,925.15	4,034.50	4,181.65	13,141.30
J. Lewis	n/a	6,334.30	6,192.28	12,526.58
T. Wedge	2,936.80	5,251.27	6,064.93	14,253.00
D. Jones	1,011.50	1,775.15	922.17	3,708.82
K. Gillatt	1,323.61	1,940.88	1,858.60	5,123.09
B. Gilhooley	8,505.59	4,187.13	9,297.96	21,990.68
P. Butler	4,344.50	3,032.12	3,720.03	11,096.65
N. Carter	7,321.30	9,210.20	8,796.98	25,328.48
A. Beveridge	925.95	899.40	948.35	2,773.70

n/a = not applicable as not in director post.

The information provided may be only a proportion of total expenses potentially attributable to each individual. The figures shown relate to expenses for directly claimed costs where the individual has submitted a claim via our travel and subsistence system or has expense payments made through their salary. The amounts shown do not include expenses, which in some cases, could be the bulk of costs associated with travel (such as rail and air fares), as these are normally paid using a Government Procurement Card, the Government's credit card. To compile such information relating to expenses from this source would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent on the salaries of press officers employed by the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last three years. [311038]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency spent the following on press officer salaries in each of the last three years:

	£
2007-08	88,274
2008-09	123,299
2009-10	[1]68,398

[1] At 14 January 2010.

The amounts for the year 2008-2009 were higher owing to the costs of replacement cover for staff on maternity leave.

Driving Tests: Facilities

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what driving test centres have closed in each of the last three years. [311034]

Paul Clark: The total numbers of driving test centres (DTCs) that were relocated by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), in each of the last three years are shown in the following table. All DTCs were relocated to existing, new or better accommodation that offer more modern facilities.

	2007	2008	2009
Related to Multi Purpose Test Centre (MPTC) programme (see background note)	10	27	14
Operational relocations	0	6	6
Total	10	33	20

The actual DTCs that were relocated, in each of the last three years, in relation to the MPTC programme are shown in the following table.

	Test centre	MPTC
2007	Edinburgh, Joppa	Edinburgh, Musselburgh
2007	Exeter	Exeter
2007	Gateshead	Gateshead
2007	Glasgow, Mosspark	Glasgow, Shieldhall
2007	Hessle	Hull
2007	Hull	Hull
2007	Ipswich, LGV	Ipswich
2007	Ipswich, Woodbridge Road	Ipswich
2007	Rotherham	Rotherham
2007	Winchmore Hill	Enfield
2008	Darlington	Darlington
2008	Gainsborough	Scunthorpe
2008	Scunthorpe	Scunthorpe
2008	St. Helens	St. Helens
2008	Holyhead	Bangor
2008	Bristol LGV	Bristol
2008	Kings Lynn	Kings Lynn
2008	Peterborough	Peterborough
2008	Spalding	Peterborough
2008	Nottingham (Gedling)	Nottingham (Colwick)
2008	Nottingham (West Bridgford)	Nottingham (Colwick)
2008	Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy
2008	Burton on Trent	Burton on Trent
2008	Bexleyheath	Erith
2008	Lincoln	Lincoln
2008	Wellingborough	Kettering
2008	Kettering	Kettering
2008	Carlisle	Carlisle
2008	Chester	Chester
2008	Ellesmere Port	Chester
2008	Warrington	St Helens
2008	Cupar	Kirkcaldy
2008	Bristol St. Georges	Bristol
2008	Farnborough	Farnborough
2008	Gosport	Lee-on-Solent
2008	Southend-on-Sea	Basildon
2008	Birmingham, Washwood Heath	Birmingham, Garretts Green
2009	Brighton	Burgess Hill
2009	Hove	Burgess Hill
2009	Herne Bay	Herne Bay
2009	Broadstairs	Herne Bay
2009	Norwich	Norwich
2009	Aberdeen (Altens)	Aberdeen
2009	Swindon	Swindon
2009	Bangor	Bangor
2009	Swansea	Swansea
2009	Wigan	Atherton (Manchester)
2009	Blackburn	Blackburn with Darwen
2009	Plymouth	Plymouth
2009	Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton
2009	Stonehaven	Aberdeen

The actual DTCs that were relocated in each of the last three years for operational issues are in the following table.

	Test centre relocated from	Test centre relocated to
2008	Minehead	Taunton DTC
2008	Trowbridge	Chippenham DTC
2008	Wallington Mint House	Neighbouring DTCs (Sutton, Croydon and Morden)
2008	Weybridge	Chertsey
2008	Thornaby	Neighbouring DTCs (Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Darlington)
2008	Colwyn Bay	Rhyl DTC
2009	Haverfordwest	Pembroke Dock DTC (car); Cardigan (car); Carmarthen (m/c); Swansea MPTV (new m/c); Neath DTC (LGV)
2009	Hendon	Hendon DTC (new centre)
2009	Sheffield—Handsworth	Sheffield—Parkway DTC
2009	Kidderminster	Lower Gornal
2009	Southall	Southall (new centre)
2009	Greenford (Ruislip Road)	Southall

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which driving test centres are planned to be relocated in the next three years. [311035]

Paul Clark: The driving test centres that the Driving Standards Agency is currently planning to relocate to new locations over the next three years are shown in the following table. These 45 relocations are subject to finding suitable operational locations, negotiating suitable terms with landowners and/or landlords and obtaining any required planning consent.

Driving test centre	Relocation date	Relocating to
Ayr	tbc	Ayr multi purpose test centre
Barking	tbc	Proposed new location at Barking
Barnstaple	tbc	Proposed new location at Barnstaple
Barry	26 March 2010	Cardiff; Bridgend
Blairgowrie	tbc	Dundee DTC
Bradford	tbc	Proposed new location at Bradford Heaton
Bradford, Eccleshill	tbc	Bradford (new site)
Bristol	tbc	Proposed new location at Bristol Southmead
Bury St. Edmunds	tbc	Proposed new location at Bury St. Edmunds
Cambridge	tbc	Proposed new location for Chesterton Road and possibly Cowley Road
Cardiff	tbc	Cardiff Fairwater
Cheltenham	tbc	Cheltenham
Chichester	tbc	Chichester
Clacton	tbc	Clacton
Doncaster	tbc	Doncaster
Dorchester	tbc	Dorchester
Durham	tbc	—
Falkirk	tbc	Grangemouth
Fraserburgh	January 2010	Fraserburgh

Driving test centre	*Relocation date*	*Relocating to*
Gillingham	tbc	Gillingham multi purpose test centre
Greenford Horsenden	tbc	Greenford Horsenden
Harrogate	tbc	Knaresborough DTC
Hawick	September 2010	Galashiels
Inverness	tbc	Inverness multi purpose test centre
Isleworth	tbc	Isleworth
Kilmarnock	tbc	Irvine (new site)
King's Heath	tbc	Kings Heath/Shirley (new site)
Leicester, Welford Road	tbc	Leicester multi purpose test centre
Loughborough	tbc	Loughborough (new site)
Lowestoft	tbc	Lowestoft
Manchester, Whalley Range	tbc	Manchester (new site)
Merthyr Tydfil	tbc	Proposed new location at Merthyr Tydfil
Mold	30 March 2010	Wrexham DTC
Morden	tbc	Morden
Northwich	tbc	Northwich
Nottingham Chalfont Drive	tbc	New site in Nottingham
Nuneaton and Hinckley	tbc	Nuneaton
Reddish	tbc	Stockport multi purpose test centre (Bredbury)
Reading L	tbc	Reading LGV TBC
Saltcoats	tbc	Irvine DTC (new site)
Shirley	tbc	Kings Heath/Shirley (new site)
Sunderland	13 January 2010	Sunderland (new site)
Sutton in Ashfield	18 January 2010	Sutton in Ashfield (new site)
Wakefield	5 February 2010	Wakefield multi purpose test centre (Leeds)
Wisbech	18 March 2010	Kings Lynn multi purpose test centre

Driving Tests: Wisbech

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the net effects on his Department's expenditure will be of relocation of the Wisbech driving test centre to Kings Lynn in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [311040]

Paul Clark: The Wisbech driving test centre is planned to remain operational until 31 March 2010, so there will be no savings associated with its relocation to Kings Lynn in this financial year.

In future years the Driving Standards Agency will save the accommodation costs for Wisbech—currently £11,386 per annum, and the costs of examiners travelling from Kings Lynn to Wisbech to conduct driving tests as Wisbech did not have permanent staff assigned—currently £5,100 per annum.

A test centre providing facilities to conduct the off-road element of the new practical motorcycling test required by European legislation was needed to serve the Kings Lynn and Wisbech area.

We want to maximise the benefit from the costs invested in providing the new facility. This involved a capital cost of £2.3 million which was greater than average owing to environmental requirements. This would have been necessary irrespective of the relocation from Wisbech.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate has been made of the net effect on the costs of *(a)* driving instructions and *(b)* driving examiners of the relocation of the Wisbech driving test centre to Kings Lynn in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [311041]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency considered that the impact of relocating Wisbech driving test centre to Kings Lynn on the cost of learning to drive would be negligible. The Agency encourages all learner drivers to be taught to drive safely and confidently on a variety of roads rather than learning to follow test routes. It should not be necessary for learner drivers to travel to Kings Lynn other than for limited pre-test familiarisation.

As no driving examiners were based at the Wisbech test centre there are no associated costs in relation to their relocation to Kings Lynn.

Highways Agency: Quantity Surveyors

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many quantity surveyors have been employed by the Highways Agency in each year since its inception. [311181]

Chris Mole: The number of quantity surveyors employed by the Highways Agency is listed in the following table.

	Quantity surveyors
1993	3
1994	7
1995	7
1996	7
1997	7
1998	7
1999	7
2000	6
2001	6
2002	7
2003	7
2004	7
2005	8
2006	8
2007	6
2008	6
2009	6

Policing and Crime Act 2009

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 339W, on the Policing and Crime Act 2009, for what reason it is necessary to use the powers in the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to ensure that correct policing arrangements can be maintained at *(a)* Belfast City Airport and *(b)* Belfast International Airport; whether officers of the (i) Northern Ireland Airport Police and (ii) Belfast Harbour Police (A) have powers to police each airport and (B) exercise powers as constables within the curtilage of each airport; to what purpose his Department proposes to work closely with the airports concerned and the Northern Ireland Office; and if he will make a statement. [311117]

Paul Clark: The arrangements for policing the Belfast airports differ from those elsewhere in the United Kingdom. As a result, the Secretary of State shortly intends to use powers under the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to exempt both Belfast airports from the new requirements in Part 3 of the Aviation Security Act 1982. This will ensure that their current policing arrangements are maintained.

We will continue to work closely with the airports concerned and the Northern Ireland Office to conclude this matter.

Roads: Salt

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there are plans for the Highways Agency to hold a central strategic reserve of salt. [311791]

Mr. Khan: There are currently no plans for the Highways Agency to hold a central strategic reserve of salt. However, when the current period of very cold weather has concluded, there will be a lessons learned based exercise, during which all practical options for increasing the salt stock resilience across the network will be examined.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Nick Harvey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what guidance his Department provides on the maximum amount of grit to be laid on roads during icy weather conditions; [310439]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the treatment of exposed roads, with particular reference to roads which have frozen over after having been gritted. [310440]

Mr. Khan: The UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) has published a code of practice for highway maintenance "Well maintained highways". The code of practice includes guidance on winter service. The UKRLG recently published a revision to their winter service guidance. Both the code of practice and the revised guidance on winter service are available free on the UKRLG website:

http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/

The guidance on winter service applies to roads affected by snow and ice and includes advice on materials that can be used for winter service. Recommended treatment rates for salt under different conditions are also provided.

Through ongoing detailed research and analysis, the Highways Agency has developed a treatment matrix, which provides guidance for its service providers on appropriate treatment rates for their network. This matrix is under continuous review to assess identified treatment rates and as a result of recently completed research, the Highways Agency has been able to reduce its treatment rates helping to improve resilience through the current salt shortage.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps he has taken to monitor the implementation by local authorities of their severe weather emergency procedures; and if he will make a statement. [311923]

Mr. Khan: Maintenance of the local highway network is a matter for local highway authorities; this includes the provision of regular winter service and response to other weather events. The Department for Transport has not recently reviewed authorities' plans in these areas.

Last month, Departmental officials wrote to the chief executive of each local authority in England, encouraging them to consider whether their winter service strategies are up to date.

Through its endorsement of 'Well-maintained Highways', the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice for highways maintenance management, the Department encourages local highway authorities to develop winter service strategies. The code of practice also provides guidance on responding to weather emergencies.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he will announce the successful bidder for the Thameslink rolling stock order. [310926]

Chris Mole: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 672W.

Transport: Schools

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of children travelled to school by *(a)* walking or cycling, *(b)* private motor vehicle and *(c)* public transport in each of the last three years. [311870]

Mr. Khan: Estimates from the National Travel Survey on the mode share of education trips made by children aged five to 15 are given in the following table.

Trips made for the purpose of education by children aged five to 15 years in Great Britain, by main transport mode, 2006-08

Percentage

Main transport mode	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Walking or cycling	48	48	46
Private motor vehicle	30	31	32
Public transport[1]	21	22	22
All modes	100	100	100
Unweighted sample sizes:			
Individuals	2,996	2,997	2,853
Trips	18,508	18,820	17,261

[1] Public transport includes dedicated school buses operated under private-hire or contract arrangements, as well as buses in general public service.

School travel is the subject of local government national indicator 198. This indicator is measured locally through data from the annual School Census and other locally-collected data, but school travel data from these sources have not been published at national level.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cancer mortality rate was in Salford *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [311669]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the cancer mortality rate was in Salford (a) in 1997 and (b) at the latest date for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (311669)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate, where cancer was the underlying cause of death, for Salford local authority, in (a) 1997 and (b) 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population,[1,2] where cancer was the underlying cause of death, Salford local authority[4], 1997 and 2008[5]

	Rate per 100,000 population	
	Rate	95 per cent. confidence interval
1997	252	(234-270)
2008	229	(211-246)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for 1997 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for 2008.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Central Office of Information: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information received from each Government department in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10 to date. [309831]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI departmental Income (309831).

This information could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Death: Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths of people of no fixed abode have been recorded in *(a)* the last 31 days and *(b)* the corresponding period in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [311924]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of people of no fixed abode have been recorded in (a) the last 31 days and (b) the corresponding period in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. I am replying in his absence. (311924)

Deaths of people with no fixed abode occurring in (a) the last 31 days (15 December 2009 to 15 January 2010) are not yet available.

The Office for National Statistics collects information on deaths in England and Wales as they are registered. Deaths of people with no fixed abode will generally be registered by a coroner rather than a medical practitioner, since all deaths that may be due to self neglect must be referred to a coroner.

The number of deaths of people with no fixed abode occurring (b) (i) between 15 December 2007 and the 15 January 2008, was 8, and (ii) between 15 December 2008 and 15 January 2009 was 11. All of these deaths were referred to a coroner and were therefore not registered until the coroner had completed their investigations, which was approximately 3 to 6 months after the death occurred.

Deaths: Circulatory Disease and Cancer

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mortality rate for people under 75 years old in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales with (i) circulatory disease and (ii) cancer was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [311724]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate for people under 75 years old in (a) England and (b) Wales with (i) circulatory disease and (ii) cancer was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (311724)

The tables attached provide the age-standardised mortality rates for persons aged under 75 years, where (i) circulatory disease was the underlying cause of death (Table 1) and (ii) cancer was the underlying cause of death (Table 2), for (a) England and (b) Wales, for 2006 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population[1,2], where circulatory disease was the underlying cause of death[3], persons aged under 75 years, England, and Wales, 2006 and 2008[4]

	Rate per 100,000 population			
	England		Wales	
	Rate	95 per cent. confidence interval	Rate	95 per cent. confidence interval
2006	79	(78-80)	89	(86-92)
2007	74	(74-75)	84	(81-87)
2008	71	(70-72)	80	(77-83)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for circulatory disease was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 100-199.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population[1] [2], where cancer was the underlying cause of death[3], persons age under 75 years, England, and Wales, 2006 and 2008[4]

Rate per 100,000 population

	England		*Wales*	
	Rate	*95 per cent. confidence interval*	*Rate*	*95 per cent. confidence interval*
2006	116	(115-116)	125	(121-129)
2007	114	(113-115)	125	(122-129)
2008	112	(111-113)	121	(117-125)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainly around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Deaths: Mentally Ill

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mortality rate for people with severe mental illness was in each of the last three years. [311725]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate for people with severe mental illness was in each of the last three years. I am replying in his absence. (311725)

The mortality rate of people with severe mental illness cannot be calculated from information collected at death registration. Mental illness is rarely recorded as a cause of death. Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death, and whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311199]

Angela E. Smith: In December 2009, 94 per cent. of all compliant invoices were paid within 10 days of receipt.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Charity Commission employ to monitor compliance with the Charities Act 2006. [311302]

Angela E. Smith: The Charity Commission as the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales has the role of monitoring charities' compliance with charity law, including the Charities Act 2006. The Cabinet Office does not employ any staff for this purpose. The Act is a wide-ranging piece of legislation, and its provisions include new safeguards to uphold public trust in the charitable sector. It defines the Charity Commission's objectives and functions, and gives it some general duties which are meant to guide it when performing its functions. The Commission employs 504 staff (full-time equivalent 462), all of which are involved in monitoring compliance with the Charities Act 2006.

Employment: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in *(a)* call centres and *(b)* manufacturing in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last five years. [311029]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people were employed in *(a)* call centres and *(b)* manufacturing in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last five years. (311029)

Table 1 shows the number of employees in call centre activities industry and the manufacturing sector between 2004 and 2008.

Table 1: Employees in Hemel Hempstead

Number

	SIC(03) 7486—Call centre activities	*SIC(03) Sector D—Manufacturing*
2004	0	3,500
2005	[1]—	3,200
2006	[1]—	2,900
2007	[1]—	2,100
2008	[1]—	2,000

[1] Figures have been suppressed to prevent disclosure.

Note:

Estimates for 2005 and earlier periods are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards. An assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees for the manufacturing sector for GB was increased by around 0.3 per cent. Direct comparisons of employee estimates over these different periods should therefore be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual Business Inquiry.

Non-departmental Public Bodies: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much on average was paid in resettlement grants to chief executives of Government bodies on their relocation under contract in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [308408]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally.

Personal Income

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mean annual earning of a *(a)* full-time public sector employee and *(b)* full-time private sector employee were in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) each constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [311473]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the mean annual earnings of (a) full-time public sector employees and (b) full-time private sector employees in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) each constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. (311473)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. The public and private sector breakdown is based on the Inter-Departmental Business Register legal status.

A table showing the mean gross annual earnings for all full-time employees in the public and private sectors for the UK, England and each constituency in April 2009 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Suicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people in each 10 year age cohort committed suicide in each of the last three years. [311723]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what proportion of people in each 10 year age cohort committed suicide in each of the last three years. I am replying in his absence. (311723)

The table attached provides the number of deaths, and the age-specific mortality rates, for persons where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by 10-year age groups, in England and Wales, for 2006 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths, and age-specific mortality rates per 100,000 population,[1 2 3] where suicide was the underlying cause of death,[4] by age group, England, and Wales, 2006 and 2008[5]

Rate per 100,000 population

	2006			2007			2008		
	Number	Rate	95 per cent. confidence interval	Number	Rate	95 per cent. confidence interval	Number	Rate	95 per cent. confidence interval
15-24	399	6	(5-6)	395	5	(5-6)	452	6	(6-7)
25-34	748	11	(10-11)	757	11	(10-12)	785	11	(10-12)
35-44	1,066	13	(12-14)	1,046	13	(12-14)	1,109	14	(13-14)
45-54	893	13	(12-14)	817	12	(11-12)	914	13	(12-14)
55-64	692	11	(10-12)	626	10	(9-11)	645	10	(9-11)
65-74	340	8	(7-8)	306	7	(6-8)	338	7	(7-8)
75-84	256	8	(7-9)	258	8	(7-9)	246	8	(7-9)
85+	110	10	(8-12)	101	9	(7-10)	98	8	(7-10)

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-IO) codes X60-X84 and YI0-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[4] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Unemployment: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* people and *(b)* young people were unemployed in Tamworth constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [311774]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) people and (b) young people were unemployed in Tamworth constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. I am replying in his absence. (311774)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age bands and geographies are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of (a) persons and (b) people aged 18-24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, in Tamworth constituency in November 2009, the latest date for which data is available, and November 1997.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number[1] of people and people aged 18-24 claiming jobseeker's allowance in Tamworth constituency

Date	People	People aged 18-24
November 1997	1,490	435
November 2009	2,630	815

[1] Age of claimants is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 5

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

JUSTICE

Burges Salmon Solicitors: Complaints

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of provision of advice by Burges Salmon Solicitors in respect of mortgages and other financial matters; and if he will make a statement. [311922]

Bridget Prentice: Since answering the hon. Member's last question on this matter on 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 608W, I have received further representations that relate to the provision of advice in respect of mortgages and other financial matters by Burges Salmon LLP and the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (SRA) subsequent investigation.

As you will appreciate from my answer in July, complaints about professional misconduct of solicitors are matters for the SRA to investigate, as the legal profession is independent from the Government. As such, I cannot comment on individual cases.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the handling by the Solicitors Regulation Authority of complaints against Burges Salmon Solicitors; and if he will make a statement. [311921]

Bridget Prentice: Since answering the hon. Member's last question 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 608W, I have answered a parliamentary question from the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson) 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1189W and received further representations from Members of Parliament and a member of the general public regarding the conduct of Burges Salmon LLP and the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (SRA) subsequent investigation in respect of that firm's provision of legal advice in mortgage and other financial matters.

The conduct of solicitors is a matter for the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to investigate and as such I cannot comment on individual cases. I have, however, asked the SRA to provide me with an update on their investigations. They have informed me that they are treating this matter with the highest priority, and that although the issues are exceedingly complex the investigation is almost complete. Further representations will be sought from the firm in the usual way, and a decision on appropriate action will be taken by the SRA as soon as possible.

Cremation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance has been provided to the public on what should be done with cremation ashes which are not taken home, left at a crematorium or interred; [311217]

(2) whether he plans to amend the Cremation Regulations 2008 to set out a clear procedure to funeral directors which are not cremation authorities on the disposal of retained cremation ashes on their premises; [311218]

(3) what recent representations his Department has received on retention of cremation ashes; [311219]

(4) what guidance has been issued by his Department to funeral directors who are not cremation authorities on the correct disposal of retained ashes. [311220]

Bridget Prentice: We currently have no plans to issue guidance on what should be done with retained cremation ashes. Regulation 30 of the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, which came into force on 1 January 2009, sets out the duties of cremation authorities in respect of the disposal of ashes. Although a number of representations on this subject were received by the Ministry of Justice in 2008 and 2009, no further representations have been received recently.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since its inception; and what the cost was of each. [307528]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is as follows:

Away days

Away days are held mainly for team building, team training or business development activities. Such events are held off-site where suitable on-site accommodation is unavailable and where the conduct of the event is facilitated by holding it away from day-to-day business operations.

The Ministry's accounting systems do not separately quantify expenditure on away days. Costs are subsumed within other categories of expenditure depending on their nature and purpose—for example conferences/events or training. It would incur disproportionate costs to scrutinise all the individual transactions which might potentially include away day costs across the Ministry and its executive agencies.

All spending on away days is completed in line with the finance policy manual, which is in line with HM Treasury Guidance on Managing Public Money, and states the following for away days and team building events:

> "These occasional events are organised to develop working relationships and achieve Departmental objectives. They are acceptable as long as the event can be justified as good value for money and can demonstrate development achievements. Costs should be reasonable and comparable to the status of the event".

Wherever possible, taking, into account room availability, size and flexibility, managers are expected to use Ministry or other public sector buildings for team events and away days rather than using external venues.

Conferences

The Ministry's accounting system records a wider category of expenditure—'conferences and events'—for headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) and the Tribunals Service. The National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) accounting system records 'conferences and exhibitions' but their procurement system is able to isolate costs that relate to attendance at conferences. Expenditure on this basis since the inception of the Ministry of Justice for headquarters and its four executive agencies (NOMS, HMCS, Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian) is as follows:

Financial period	£
2008-09	5,875,035
2007-08	4,256,611

The amounts above exclude expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts within NOMS as this information is held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

As part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to improve value for money and secure efficiencies, an exercise is currently underway to examine the individual transactions that make up the preceding totals. Work completed to date indicates that some of the expenditure relates more properly to away days or training events rather than conferences. The number of individual conferences attended cannot therefore be determined at this stage.

The increasingly cross-cutting nature of government policy makes conferences an effective mechanism for bringing together stakeholders in the Government, private and voluntary sectors to promote a joined-up approach to the delivery of front-line services.

Bookings for conferences and related expenditure must be made through designated contractors employed by the Ministry of Justice to identify venues and accommodation that offers best value for money.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310805]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) endeavours to send as much of its food waste as possible for environmentally friendly treatment, such as composting or anaerobic digestion, rather than to landfill. The MOJ does not currently record food waste generated separately from general waste throughout the organisation.

The total figure for food waste generated by the MOJ's headquarters from 2007 to 2009-10 is estimated to be 341 tonnes. This is based on a waste audit carried out by waste and recycling contractors in August 2009. The National Archives estimates that the food waste it generates each year is approximately three tonnes.

Tonnes

	MOJ headquarters	*The National Archives*
2007-08	106	3
2008-09	168	3
2009-10	67	3

HM Prison Service carried out two surveys as part of a business case to evaluate requirements for in-vessel composting and de-watering technology with the overall aim of providing an effective solution to sites with food waste disposal issues and upholding the philosophy of "waste to resource", which means taking waste and processing it into a useful, useable product and adding value to it. In 2006, based on 32 prisons, on average 1.45 kg of food per prison place were wasted per week. In 2007, based on 51 prisons, the figure was 1.34 kg of food waste per prison place per week.

	2006	*2007*
Number of persons responding	32	51
Operational capacity	17,416	30,121
Average food waste per place per week (kg)	1.45	1.34

The use of de-watering and in-vessel composting technology has been introduced at around 35 prisons to process food waste into compost. The compost is used on prison gardens and horticultural activities thereby reducing the requirement for bought-in compost and contributing towards the HM Prison Service strategy for phasing out peat-based products.

Additionally, a small scale anaerobic digestion plant has been installed in Guy Marsh Prison with the objective of processing biodegradable wastes, including food waste, into biogas.

HM Courts Service could provide the data only at disproportionate cost.

Expert Evidence: Costs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the Exchequer of expert witnesses in *(a)* criminal and *(b)* civil legal aid cases was in the last five years. [309631]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record centrally the amounts paid to expert witnesses in legally aided cases. As this information is not readily available it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, following a file sampling exercise, it is estimated that in 2007-08 the LSC spent around £125 million gross on experts' fees in legally aided criminal and civil cases. In addition in criminal cases, there would also be costs to the Exchequer from expert witnesses funded by the prosecution.

Gender Recognition Panels

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has provided to the Gender Recognition Panel in each of the last three years. [310961]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to my answers on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 464-65W, which set out the costs of the Gender Recognition Panel over the last three years.

	Cost (£)
2006-07	216,480
2007-08	173,109
2008-09[1]	121,293

[1] 2008-09 The administrative element of the cost for this year is not on a similar basis due to a change in accounting procedures. This component is now recorded within the overall administrative cost of the Leicestershire Administrative Support Centre, where the Gender Recognition Panel is based. This accounts for a reduction of £14,364 between costs in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Land Registry

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* land purchase, *(b)* architectural fees, *(c)* fixtures and fittings and *(d)* other costs of the construction and furnishing of the Land Registry office in Croydon. [310711]

Mr. Wills: The overall cost to build the Land Registry office in Croydon, including project management and consultancy fees, was £18,793,041.

The figures requested are as follows:

(a) £2,863,496 was spent on the purchase of land

(b) £1,227,604 was spent on architectural fees

(c) £101,129 was spent on fixtures and fittings

(d) £14,600,812 was spent on other costs of the construction and furnishing.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much consultants employed to assist on the Land Registry's Accelerated Transformation Programme have been paid to date. [310713]

Mr. Wills: The consultants engaged to assist on Land Registry's Accelerated Transformation Programme have been paid £436,937 for their services to date.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to his Department's consultations on court closures which ended on 5 January 2010. [310963]

Mr. Straw: We are grateful to all those who have contributed to the consultation process and we will publish our re[illegible]e in due course.

Medway Secure Training Centre

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual cost is of a place for a young offender at Medway Secure Training Centre. [310680]

Maria Eagle: The average annual cost of a place at a Secure Training Centre at 1 April 2009 is £160,000. This is the average annual cost of a place across the Secure Training Centre sector.

These data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders there are at Medway Secure Training Centre. [310681]

Maria Eagle: On 27 November 2009, there were 66 young people held at Medway Secure Training Centre.

These data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of education and training a week young offenders at Medway Secure Training Centre receive. [310682]

Maria Eagle: The performance measure is to ensure that 90 per cent. of young people receive 30 hours of education, training and personal development activity per week, as defined in the National Specifications for Learning and Skills document.

Medway Secure Training Centre reports on the percentage of young people receiving education, training and personal development of more than 30 hours a week and this information is contained in the following table.

Table showing percentage of young people at Medway STC receiving education, training and personal development of more than 30 hours a week

	Percentage
October 2008	100.0
November 2008	100.0
December 2008	100.0
January 2009	100.0
February 2009	100.0
March 2009	100.0
April 2009	100.0
May 2009	100.0
June 2009	100.0
July 2009	100.0
August 2009	100.0
September 2009	100.0
Overall	100.0

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours a day young offenders at Medway Secure Training Centre spend out of cell. [310683]

Maria Eagle: The average number of hours per day that young people spent out of their rooms during September 2009 at Medway Secure Training Centre was 13.6 hours.

These data have been self-reported by the centre to the Youth Justice Board. While the Youth Justice Board seeks to verify self-reported data, accuracy may be subject to change.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours a week are spent by offenders at Medway Secure Training Centre in *(a)* team sport and *(b)* physical exercise. [310684]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected.

The Youth Justice Board National Standards require establishments to provide young people a minimum of one hour access to fresh air per day.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders aged *(a)* 12 to 15 and *(b)* over 15 years released from Medway Secure Training Centre have been convicted of a further offence within 12 months of release in each of the last five years. [310685]

Maria Eagle: Data are not available for the reoffending rates of young offenders released from individual secure training centres. Individual establishment names are not included in the datasets used to produce the reoffending statistics.

Information on the rates of reoffending for all young offenders aged 12 to 15 and 16 to 17 and released from custody (from young offender institutions, secure training centres or secure children's homes) is available, however. The proportion of offenders that committed a further offence within 12 months of release is shown in the following table, split by age group.

Cohort	*Age*	*Number of offenders*	*Percentage of offenders that committed a further offence*
2003	12-15	133	78.2
	16-17	653	72.9

Cohort	Age	Number of offenders	Percentage of offenders that committed a further offence
2004	12-15	209	80.4
	16-17	606	75.1
2005	12-15	193	80.8
	16-17	649	71.0
2006	12-15	200	83.0
	16-17	617	75.0
2007	12-15	171	78.9
	16-17	607	74.3

For more information on juvenile reoffending rates please see the publication 'Reoffending of juveniles: Results from the 2007 cohort; which is available from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders have spent *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* three to six months and *(c)* six to nine months at Medway Secure Training Centre in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [310686]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of custodial episodes that ended between 1 December 2008 and 30 November 2009, who have spent *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* three to six months and *(c)* six to nine months at Medway Secure Training Centre, as a percentage of the total number of custodial episodes in that period.

An episode refers to a period a young person has spent in custody and it is possible that one young person can start more than one custodial episode in a 12-month period.

Medway Secure Training Centre

	Percentage
Less then three months	65
Three to six months	25
Six to nine months	8

These data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Prisoners

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the prison population achieved a basic skills qualification in each of the last three years. [310356]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not collected in the format requested. The following table sets out the Skills for Life qualifications achieved by offenders in the three academic years from August 2006 to July 2009. The figures will include a sentences in the community. The table also shows the total number of first receptions entering prison during the period June to July for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

England

Academic year (August to July)	Skills for Life achievements	First receptions into prison
2006-07	24,762	125,881
2007-08	33,810	134,148
2008-09	[1]29,859	[2]—

[1] Provisional figure—to be confirmed at the end of February 2010.

[2] Figure not available until July 2010.

Prisoners Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of burglary have been released under the End of Custody Licence scheme. [310697]

Maria Eagle: End of Custody Licence (ECL) was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and four years are released on licence a maximum of 18 days earlier than the date they are entitled to be released, subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address. The first report on the operation of the scheme, which included a breakdown of offences, was published on 16 July 2007. Since then, monthly reports have been published on the Ministry of Justice website, at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

From the start of the scheme to the end of November 2009, 6,795 prisoners had been released on ECL whose original offence had been burglary. Total releases for the same period was 74,669.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training is required to be undertaken by prison staff working in women's prisons on self-harm, suicide, domestic abuse and sexual abuse. [311918]

Maria Eagle: New prison officers are required to complete a one-year foundation training programme, leading to a level 3 National Vocational Qualification in Custodial Care. Training begins with an eight-week Prison Officer Entry Level Training course. The training covers the practical skills needed to be a prison officer and includes areas such as interpersonal skills, diversity and self harm/suicide awareness.

All staff in regular contact with prisoners are required to undertake the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) Foundation course. This is a three-hour course which covers the risks associated with self-harm and suicide, and the ACCT process and documentation.

In addition, the Women Awareness Staff Programme, designed to raise awareness of as many aspects of working with women prisoners as possible, has been accredited and is now being delivered across the women's and abuse. It is the intention that all staff and volunteers working in the women's prison estate will undertake the programme.

Probation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of Probation Service Staff in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Dyfed Powys undertake duties involving face-to-face contact with offenders; and what proportion of their working time is spent in such contact for such staff in each area. [307317]

Maria Eagle: The number of probation service staff whose primary task is offender facing work in England is 67.9 per cent., in Wales 63.2 per cent. and in Dyfed-Powys 65.6 per cent. Our statistics record staff undertaking duties involving face-to-face contact with offenders as: qualified probation officers (PO), probation service officers (PSO), and trainee probation officers.

Delivery structures across probation areas vary as do the requirements of specific roles and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not routinely report on the proportion of working time spent in face-to-face contact with offenders. In December 2008, the NOMS undertook a snapshot survey over a one week period, based on a small sample of PO and PSO staff. It reported that across England and Wales 24 per cent. of PO/PSO time was spent in direct contact with offenders, 41 per cent. was involved in computer activity and 35 per cent. of time was spent on non-computer—dealing with correspondence, meetings, travel, etc. The equivalent figures in the same survey for Dyfed-Powys were 21 per cent., 45 per cent. and 34 per cent.

The reporting of the results against only three main headings means that much of the detail is open to interpretation. For example, time spent on computer activity is productive time, in that it involves the production of reports and assessments on individual cases. The recording of risk assessments, which is an integral part of this work, is vital to ongoing case management, and the proper recording of case information is essential to the provision of statistical information which can be deployed to develop NOMS's offender management strategy. Even if only about three-quarters of this time were included as work on cases this gives a picture of more like 54 per cent. of time being spent on work with individual offenders.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is taking action to increase the amount of time staff spend in face-to-face contact with offenders.

NOMS will achieve this by:

allocating resources to the assessment and management of offenders according to the level of risk;

the creation of probation trusts;

a national programme of specifying probation work, and benchmarking performance, to support the effective deployment of front line staff;

identifying opportunities for reducing bureaucracy and other demands currently placed on front-line staff; and

expanding the use of video conferencing to reduce the time probation staff spend travelling to interview prisoners.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to increase the amount of time probation staff spend in face-to-face contact with offenders.

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is taking action to increase the amount of time staff spend in face-to-face contact with offenders.

NOMS will achieve this by:

allocating resources to the assessment and management of offenders according to the level of risk;

the creation of probation trusts;

a national programme of specifying probation work, and benchmarking performance, to support the effective deployment of front line staff;

identifying opportunities for reducing bureaucracy and other demands currently placed on front-line staff; and

expanding the use of video conferencing to reduce the time probation staff spend travelling to interview prisoners.

Victim Support Schemes: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has contributed to victim support schemes in Gloucestershire in each year since 1999. [311429]

Claire Ward: Prior to 2001 records of specific allocation of how Victim Support decided to allocate Government funding, broken down into areas, is not available. The table below gives the detail of the allocation of Government funding to Gloucestershire from 2001 to date.

	Total government funding to Victim Support (£ million)	*Funding allocated to Gloucestershire (£)*
1999-2000	17.5	n/a
2000-2001	18.6	n/a
2001-2002	25.1	268,831
2002-2003	29.3	281,590
2003-2004	30	269,590
2004-2005	30	259,118
2005-2006	30	239,843
2006-2007	30	223,480
2007-2008	35.8	236,935
2008-2009	37	265,220

n/a = Not available

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* committees and *(b)* sub-committees of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs are; when each such committee last met; and who the (i) chair and (ii) members of each committee are. [311140]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) last met on 14 December 2009. The current interim Chair is Professor Les Iversen, appointed on 13 January 2010.

The current membership of the Council is as follows;

Dr. Dima Abdulrahim

Lord Victor Adebowale

Commander Simon Bray

Mr. Martin Barnes

Dr. Margaret Birtwistle

Ms Carmel Clancy
Professor Ilana Crome
Ms Robyn Doran
Mr. Patrick Hargreaves
Ms Caroline Healy
Dr. Matthe[illegible]kman
Professor Leslie Iversen
Mr. David Liddell
Dr. Fiona Measham
Mr. Trevor Pearce
District Judge Justin Philips
Mr. Richard Phillips
Mr. Howard Roberts
Dr. Mary Rowlands
Dr. Polly Taylor
Ms Monique Tomlinson
Mr. Arthur Wing.

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs Committees and Sub-Committees

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is a standing committee of the ACMD; and last met on 29 October 2009. The Technical Committee is currently undertaking the work on New Psychoactive Substances and Cognition Enhancers in addition to maintaining a 'watching brief' on a number of other substances.

The membership of the Technical Committee is as follows:

Chair: Professor Les Iversen
Dr. Dima Abdulrahim
Dr. Margaret Birtwistle
Dr. Matthew Hickman
Dr. Polly Taylor
District Judge Justin Phillips
Deputy Chief Constable Howard Roberts
Mr. Martin Barnes
Commander Simon Bray.

In addition to the above, the Technical Committee has a number of co-opted members with expertise in forensic science, chemistry and medicine.

Anabolic Steroids Working Group

The Anabolic Steroids Working Group is a short-term working group, considering the misuse of anabolic steroids in the UK. The working group last met on 1 October 2009.

The membership of the Anabolic Steroids Working Group is as follows:

Chair: Professor Les Iversen
District Judge Justin Phillips
Mr. Martin Barnes
Commander Simon Bray
Mr. Trevor Pearce.

In addition to the above, the Anabolic Steroids Working Group has a number of co-opted members with expertise in chemistry, forensic science, anabolic steroid misuse and service provision.

Simultaneous Poly-substance Misuse Working Group

The Simultaneous Poly-substance Misuse Working Group last met on 30 September 2009. The Chair of the Simultaneous Poly-substance Misuse Working Group was Dr. John Marsden. Dr. Marsden resigned from the ACMD on 10 November 2009. It is proposed that this working group will be chaired by Dr. Fiona Measham.

The membership of the Simultaneous Poly-substance Misuse Working Group is as follows:

Proposed Chair: Fiona Measham
Ms Carmel Clancy
Dr. Mary Rowlands
Dr. Matthew Hickman.

In addition to the above, the Simultaneous Poly-substance Misuse Working Group has a co-opted member with expertise in cellular mechanisms.

Arrests: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in the London borough of Bexley have been arrested but released without charge in each of the last five years. [311567]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The arrest statistics held by the Home Office are broken down by police force area only and therefore we cannot provide information for the London borough of Bexley area.

Statistics relating to the stages after a person has been arrested are not reported to the Home Office, so we are also unable to provide these data.

Closed Circuit Television: Complaints

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers the interim CCTV regulator will have to investigate complaints of the abuse or misuse of CCTV; and what sanctions the regulator will be able to invoke against such abuse or misuse. [311781]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made to the House on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 113WS. Part of the role of the Interim Regulator will be to promote public awareness of the complaints process and criteria for complaints to the relevant agencies (for example, Information Commissioner, local authority or private organisation); and how to deal with complaints relating to technical standards. This will include working with and encouraging CCTV system owners and users to have in place a suitable process to raise awareness of what the public can do if they have a particular concern about the operation of CCTV in their area.

Closed Circuit Television: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has given to local authorities in Greater London for the provision of CCTV in each of the last five years. [311564]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is not held centrally. Between 1999 and 2003, £170 million of Home Office capital funding under the Crime Reduction Programme was made available to local authorities for investment in public space CCTV. Around 680 CCTV town centre schemes were set up with this funding.

Local authorities benefit from area based grants that allow them to spend on CCTV and other areas as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their area.

Control Orders

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many independent medical assessments of the *(a)* mental and *(b)* physical condition of individuals subject to a control order have been undertaken since the implementation of such orders; and what criteria are used to determine when such an assessment is appropriate. [309970]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office is aware of 24 independent medical assessments—22 in relation to mental health and two in relation to physical health—that have been undertaken on individuals subject to control orders since March 2005. Of these assessments, eight were commissioned by the Home Office, 12 were commissioned by controlled persons' legal representatives and two were jointly commissioned by the Home Office and the controlled person's legal representatives. These independent medical assessments relate to nine individuals as some controlled individuals have had more than one medical assessment. Individuals subject to control orders are not required to notify the Home Office when they undergo an independent medical assessment so these figures are not necessarily comprehensive.

The Home Office may commission a medical assessment if a controlled individual, or lawyers acting on their behalf, have commissioned a medical assessment. However unless an individual is sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983 they cannot be forced to undergo a medical assessment.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of individuals subject to a control order have been assessed as requiring care in relation to their mental health since the implementation of such orders; and what proportion of such individuals had a mental health condition at the time they were made subject to a control order. [309971]

Mr. Hanson: As of 10 December last year 45 individuals had been subject to a control order. Of these, the Home Office is aware of 12 individuals who have been assessed as having mental health issues, including depression, while on a control order. Individuals subject to control orders are not required to notify the Home Office of any diagnosis in relation to their mental health or of any medical care that they are assessed to require so these figures are not necessarily comprehensive.

The Home Office is aware that seven of the 12 individuals referred to above had mental health issues prior to the imposition of the control order.

Crime

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents with notifiable crime codes *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 4.1, *(d)* 4.2, *(e)* 4.3, *(f)* 4.4, *(g)* 4.6, *(h)* 4.7, *(i)* 4.8, *(j)* 4.9, *(k)* 4.10, *(l)* 5A, *(m)* 5B, *(n)* 5C, *(o)* 8A, *(p)* 8D, *(q)* 8F, *(r)* 8G, *(s)* 8H, *(t)* 8J, *(u)* 8K and *(v)* 37.1 which were also monitored under Priority 1 of Public Service Agreement 23 were recorded by each police force in each month since April 2006. [310732]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 January 2010]*: Since 2007-08, the Home Office have reconciled recorded crime data with forces on a quarterly basis but not for months, so only quarterly data are provided. Quarterly data are provided for 2006-07 to 2008-09. Data at police force level for quarters in 2009-10 have not yet been published.

Data for 2006-07 are broken down by quarter and data are shown in Tables A to D. Similarly, data for 2007-08 are shown in Tables E to H and data for 2008-09 are shown in Tables I to L placed in the House Library.

Data are in line with data published in October 2009. Updated data will be available after the publication of the next quarterly bulletin on 21 January 2010.

Crime: Nature Conservation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he issues to chief constables on recording crime involving wildlife. [310147]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) is the guidance issued to all police forces in England and Wales on the recording of crime. It has two basic principles, that of a victim focus and consistency of recording.

The Notifiable Offence List (NOL) is a list of crimes that when they come to the notice of the police (including some wildlife offences) the police have to record using the guidance within NCRS. The police must notify the Home Office of the following wildlife offences:

Introduction of new species etc. under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 sec. 14 and, Wildlife offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 these being subsumed in a broader other offences category.

Most wildlife offences are not on the NOL, but cautioning and conviction data on these types of offences are collected by the Ministry of Justice.

The NOL can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

Crime: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in numbers of *(a)* overall recorded crimes, *(b)* recorded violent crimes, *(c)* burglaries and *(d)* vehicle thefts in Preston has been since 1997. [310997]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested. Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way crime is recorded. The effect of extending the coverage and changing the counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase total recorded crime nationally by 14 per cent. It is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further artificial increase of 10 per cent. in total recorded crime in its first year. For these reasons data between 1997 and 2008-09 are not directly comparable.

The latest comparable data are for offences recorded in Preston between 2002-03 and 2008-09 and are given in the following table.

Percentage change in selected offences recorded by the police in Preston between 2002-03 and 2008-09

	Percentage change
Total recorded crime	-20
Violence against the person	+27
Burglary	-45
Theft of a vehicle	-47
Theft from a vehicle	-54

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence against the person *(a)* with and *(b)* without injury were recorded by each police force in each month since April 2006. [310709]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* Since 2007-08, the Home Office have reconciled recorded crime data with forces on a quarterly basis but not for months, so only quarterly data are provided. Quarterly data are provided for 2006-07 to 2008-09. Data at police force level relating to quarters in 2009-10 data have not yet been published.

Data for 2006-07 are broken down by quarter and data are shown in Tables A to D. Similarly, data for 2007-08 are shown in Tables E to H and data for 2008-09 are shown in Tables I to L placed in the House Library.

Data are in line with the data published in October 2009. Updated data will be available after the publication of the next quarterly bulletin on crime on 21 January 2010.

Crimes of Violence: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded incidents of violent crime there were in Halifax in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2009. [310457]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The term 'violent crime' is no longer used and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Additionally, the Halifax area does not directly map to a police force, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) or Basic Command Unit (BCU). However, data are available for Calderdale.

At BCU and CDRP level, 2,951 violence against the person offences were recorded in 2008-09 in Calderdale, compared to 4,532 in 2004-05.

Criminal Records

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records on the Police National Computer are held in respect of individuals arrested but not charged with or convicted of a criminal offence. [310958]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The Police National Computer is an operational tool used for policing purposes and is not designed to produce the information requested. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310526]

Mr. Woolas: The Department holds 20,801m^2 of owned and rented offices other than PFI. Currently no owned office space is vacant and 160m^2 of rented office space is vacant estimated to cost £24,000 per annum in rent. Current rental values are not held for rented space but the total current rent payment figure is £6.5 million. The book value of our owned office space is currently £7.75 million.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310806]

Mr. Woolas: The HO records its total waste arisings as required for the annual Sustainable Development in Government report, and is working to reduce its total waste arisings. The HO does not record food waste as a separate waste stream.

Departmental Housing

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* flats and *(b)* houses are (i) owned and (ii) rented by his Department for use by officials who are required to work in London away from home. [310929]

Mr. Woolas: None. From information currently held and recorded centrally my Department does not own or rent residential accommodation for use by Home Office civil servants.

Departmental Official Residences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the former ministerial residence at 62 South Eaton Place has not yet been sold; and what advice his Department has commissioned on the marketing of the property. [311551]

Mr. Woolas: 62 South Eaton Place was placed on the market in September 2008 through leading agents and has attracted considerable interest. A redacted copy of the agent's pre-disposal report has previously been placed in the Library. Following a recent further advertisement in the national press closing offers are anticipated shortly.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* citizens' juries and *(b)* summits have been hosted by his Department since June 2007; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310235]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has held one citizens' jury to discuss the issues of law and order, crime-fighting and community policing. It was held on 12 September 2007 in Leicester.

The Home Secretary and Prime Minister attended the event, along with approximately 105 members of the public. The transcript for the event can be found on the Parliament website at:

http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2008/DEP2008-0887.pdf

The Home Office has held no citizens' summits since 2007. However, the Department has held two stakeholder summits. On 20 May 2008 my hon. Friends the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) (former Home Office Minister), the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan) (former DCSF Minister) and my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) (former FCO Minister) attended a summit with stakeholders from the drugs sector to discuss the current levels of cocaine use and its impact on individuals and communities. On 4 February 2009 the former Home Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith) attended a burglary summit with voluntary, private and public sector stakeholders to discuss what more could be done to protect vulnerable people against burglary.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizen juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310779]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* The Home Office has not held any citizens' juries since October 2008.

The Home Office has held no citizens' summits since October 2008. However, the Department has held one stakeholder summit. On 4 February 2009 the former Home Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith) attended a burglary summit with voluntary, private and public sector stakeholders to discuss what more could be done to protect vulnerable people against burglary.

Detention Centres: Children

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on policy on detention of children in immigration removal centres. [311098]

Meg Hillier: I recently assumed responsibility for overseeing the policy surrounding the detention of children for the purposes of immigration control and held discussions with UK Border Agency officials about the main policy issues in December.

Families with children are detained only where they have failed to leave the UK voluntarily despite the courts having upheld a decision of the UK Border Agency that they have no legal basis of stay in the country. Detention is necessary to effect removal in these circumstances.

We aim to keep such detention to the minimum period necessary and, to this end, it is subject to frequent and rigorous review, including ministerial scrutiny in those minority of cases where detention lasts for 28 days or more.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications have been made to enable attendance at courses at each National Qualification Framework level in the UK since March 2009. [311736]

Mr. Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency does not keep a central record of the level of courses proposed by student visa applicants. The information requested could therefore be obtained from individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Between April and September 2009, 264,205 applications were received and 180,773 visas issued under Tier 4 of the Points Based System (Students).

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges which have had Tier 4 sponsor licences revoked are registered with Companies House. [311359]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* As at 14 January, 13 education providers have had their Tier 4 sponsorship licence revoked, of which 11 are registered with Companies House.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications have been made to study in *(a)* higher education institutions, *(b)* further education colleges, *(c)* sixth form colleges and (d) schools in the UK since March 2009. [311737]

Mr. Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency does not keep a central record of the types of educational establishments proposed by student visa applicants. The information requested could therefore be obtained from individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Between April and September 2009, 264,205 applications were received and 180,773 visas issued under Tier 4 of the Points Based System (Students).

Entry Clearances: Thailand

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visitor visa applications have been made from British missions in Thailand in the last 12 months for which figures are available; how many of those applications have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; and how many have been the subject of appeal. [311308]

Mr. Woolas: In the 12-month period from October 2008 to September 2009, our Visa Section in Bangkok received 53,419 visit visa applications, refused 4,801 such applications and issued 47,604 visit visas. We are unable to identify from our records those appeals that were received specifically against the refusal of visit visa applications. However, the total number of appeals lodged during this period against Bangkok visa refusals in general was 478.

European Convention on Cybercrime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are required in order for the UK to achieve ratification of the Council of European Convention on Cybercrime. [311139]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The process for ratifying the Cybercrime Convention is to check that we meet the requirements of the Articles of the Convention and then to gain agreement from the devolved administrations that any legislation or processes specific to them are reflected in the ratification.

This process is nearing completion and the Government expect to seek Parliament's approval for ratification in the near future.

Extradition: USA

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 518W, on extradition: USA, and pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010 by the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *Official Report*, columns 419-20W, on USA: extradition, how he ensures that he exercises his powers in respect of such extraditions to the US in accordance with the obligations of the Human Rights Act 1998. [311000]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 18 January 2010]*: The Secretary of State has an implied power to withdraw an extradition order where, exceptionally, a new issue arises subsequent to the completion of all proceedings under the Extradition Act 2003 but before the person has been extradited. The basis for that implied power, whether in respect of an extradition request from the USA or from any other of the UK's many extradition partners, is section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998. It follows that the new issue must be evidence that extradition would breach the person's convention rights. In deciding that question, the Secretary of State considers thoroughly all of the issues raised taking account of legal advice available to him and recognising that his decision in such cases is susceptible to challenge by judicial review.

Firearms: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many handgun licences are held by individuals who are not members of the security services, the armed forces or the police. [309436]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 7 January 2010]*: Information on the total number of handguns held on firearms certificates is not available centrally. A firearms certificate is not needed by members of the security services, the armed forces or the police who are required to possess firearms in the performance of their official duties.

Forensic Science Service: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he had with the Chief Constable of Lancashire Police on the closure of Chorley Forensic Science Service laboratory. [311129]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Decisions on the future of the Forensic Science Service Ltd.'s laboratory in Chorley are a matter for the management and board of the company. Home Office Ministers have had no discussion with the Chief Constable of Lancashire. However, the Chairman of FSS Ltd. met the Chief Constable on 18 August 2009, specifically to discuss the company's plans for transformation.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent assessment is of the future of the Forensic Science Service laboratory at Chorley. [311366]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 18 January 2010]*: The future of the Forensic Science Service Ltd.'s laboratory in Chorley is a matter for the management and board of the company. Currently, the intention is to wind down operational activity with a view to closure by spring 2011.

Identity Cards and Passports: Greater Manchester

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications have been made by residents of *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* the Greater Manchester area for (i) a stand alone identity card, (ii) a passport plus identity card and (iii) a stand alone passport. [310938]

Meg Hillier: Since 30 November 2009 and up to and including 14 January 2010, over 1,300 people who live in Greater Manchester, have applied and attended an enrolment appointment for an identity card.

For the same period over 439,000 passport applications were received in total by the Identity and Passport Service. Information about passports is not readily held in a format to enable a further breakdown of those resident in Greater Manchester.

Those British citizens eligible for an identity card are also able to apply for a passport. However, the passport and identity card application processes are currently separate. While a precise date has not yet been set, we are planning to start issuing fingerprint biometric passports from 2012, so that from then onwards any adult who decides to apply for a British passport will also have the choice of being issued with a fingerprint biometric identity card or both documents all on a voluntary basis through a single application process.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training staff of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will undertake on commencement of their employment; and what ongoing training will be provided for ISA employees. [310856]

Meg Hillier: All staff attend a corporate induction day which includes information on information governance and security, terms and conditions of employment and health and safety. Each casework employee undergoes a Caseworker Development Programme (CWDP) upon joining the ISA. The CWDP is six weeks of intensive training made up of classroom and practical experience.

Following this, casework officers, decision makers, team managers and unit heads undertake the "University Certificate of Advanced Professional Development (UCAPD)—Professional Decision Making in Independent Safeguarding Authority Casework", which is an Accredited Caseworker Programme. The UCAPD is accredited by Teesside university.

Staff will benefit from on-going training programmes which cover a range of specialist areas including legal training, risk management, equality and diversity, changes in IT and business processes, policies and procedures.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average cost to the Independent Safeguarding Authority of processing a vetting application. [310857]

Meg Hillier: The fee for application to the Vetting and Barring Scheme reflects the anticipated average cost per application of £64. Of this, £28 represents the costs of the Independent Safeguarding Authority and £36 those of the Criminal Records Bureau.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has produced on the obligations of organisations in respect of the vetting of their staff by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [310858]

Meg Hillier: Interim guidance on the Vetting and Barring Scheme including the responsibilities of employers was issued in November 2009. Further guidance will make clear that applications to the scheme will initially be limited to new entrants to regulated activities as defined under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and thereafter applications should be made on a phased basis. Similar advice will be provided to Criminal Records Bureau-registered bodies which help manage the application process.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations his Department has received from voluntary organisations on the Independent Safeguarding Authority's vetting procedure. [310859]

Meg Hillier: Representations have been received about a range of Vetting and Barring Scheme issues from a number of voluntary sector organisations. Regular consultation meetings are held with the voluntary sector and other stakeholders to discuss and resolve issues raised. Relevant feedback is considered by the scheme and by the ISA, which is responsible for vetting procedures.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the amount of fees to be paid for registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority in the next three years. [310861]

Meg Hillier: The total value of fees for applications to the Vetting and Barring Scheme, based on an estimate of the numbers likely to apply to the scheme over the first three years, is £277.1 million. Fee income is intended to cover the estimated costs of both the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the Criminal Records Bureau.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Independent Safeguarding Authority procedures will apply to companies which have school pupils undertaking work experience. [310862]

Meg Hillier: Where staff are directly supervising children on work experience schemes, this constitutes regulated activities and companies or other agencies will not be able to employ in these posts any person they know to be barred from such work. Registration with the Vetting and Barring Scheme will not be a legal requirement in these circumstances, but employers will be able to check the status of relevant staff within the scheme. Placement organisers will work closely with providers to ensure appropriate procedures are followed.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which occupations Independent Safeguarding Authority procedures relating to controlled activities will apply. [310863]

Meg Hillier: The definition of controlled activities for the purposes of applications to the Vetting and Barring Scheme are set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Provisions for controlled activities are currently under review in accordance with the recommendations of Sir Roger Singleton.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to be referred to the Independent Safeguarding Authority on the grounds that they pose a risk of harm to vulnerable groups in the first year of operation of the vetting and barring scheme. [310864]

Meg Hillier: The overall estimate of cases to be referred to the ISA in the first year is 28,000.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed on the Independent Safeguarding Authority helpline; and what training such staff have received. [310866]

Meg Hillier: A helpline has been established to provide information on the vetting and barring scheme as a whole. This is contracted out to a commercial supplier, with standards set for the quality and volume of responses. Staffing levels and suitable training are determined by the provider to meet the overall requirements of the contract.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of public sector workers likely to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority in each of the next three years. [310867]

Meg Hillier: Estimates have not been made in the form requested.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of agency workers who will be required to pay the full fee for registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority in each of the next three years. [310868]

Meg Hillier: Estimates have not been made in the form requested. Estimates are based on the total numbers likely to apply to the scheme.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* unemployed people who will be required to pay the full registration fee for the Independent Safeguarding Authority in each of the next three years. [310869]

Meg Hillier: Estimates have not been made in the form requested. Fees for application to the vetting and barring scheme are charged to those in paid employment. No fee is payable for persons undertaking unpaid voluntary work.

Internet: Privacy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* the European Commission on protection of the privacy of UK internet users. [310545]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has had no recent discussions with his European counterparts or the European Commission on the protection of the privacy of UK internet users. However the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) have recently been engaged in discussion on revisions to the e-privacy directive 2002/58/EC as part of the wider Telecommunication Framework discussion, as this falls in their remit.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310851]

Mr. Woolas: Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Passports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts relating to biometric passports have been let; to whom each such contract has been let; for what projects or services each such contract provides; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [310385]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* The Home Department has let only one contract specifically in relation to the design and production of biometric Passport Books. A 10 year contract valued at £400 million was awarded to De La Rue Ltd. in July 2009. This contract will replace the existing Passport Book production contract with 3M and is currently scheduled to become operational in the autumn of 2010.

Rape: Thames Valley

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Thames Valley Police's rape awareness campaign. [310222]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office do not conduct assessments on the effectiveness of campaigns run at a local level by police forces. It is at the discretion of the Thames Valley Police chief constable to assess the effectiveness of their campaign.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the total cost of Thames Valley Police's rape awareness campaign to date. [310228]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office do not hold this information.

Thames Valley Police are responsible for expenditure on their local awareness campaign.

Sexual Offences: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals to a sexual referral centre were made by *(a)* Essex police force and *(b)* Essex county council in the latest year for which figures are available. [309959]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These data are not centrally collated.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where each sexual referral centre is located. [309960]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is available on the Home Office Website and can be accessed using the following web link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/sexual-offences/sexual-assault-referral-centres/referral-centre-locations/

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will establish a sexual referral centre in Essex. [309961]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Last year the Government approved an application for a new sexual assault referral centre to be established in Essex. Start-up funding was provided for financial year 2009-10.

Vetting

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the criminal record checking systems completed by the Criminal Records Bureau were last reviewed in respect of *(a)* their efficiency and *(b)* their cost to (i) his Department and (ii) the applicant. [311136]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The Home Office sets the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) a number of performance targets each year and the efficiency of the process of completing a CRB check is measured within the context of these targets.

The CRB currently operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 95 per cent. of standard certificates within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced certificates within 28 days.

The CRB is a self-funding Executive Agency within the Home Office. There is no cost to the Home Office as the CRB's running costs are being met by fees from its customers. Those fees are reviewed each year as part of the budget setting process.

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006: Prosecutions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted under section *(a)* 28(1) and *(b)* 29(2) of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. [301656]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 2007 (latest available, presented on calendar year basis) indicate there were no prosecutions.

You can view this information on the Ministry of Justice Website using the following web link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm

The Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House if she will place in the Library a copy of the results from her Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the total cost of the survey was. [310769]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007.

The Cabinet Office will publish the October 2009 people survey results on their website in February 2010. Following publication they will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier of the Cabinet Office October 2009 people survey was ORC International who were procured by the Department to deliver the first cross-civil service people survey. The people survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the Cabinet Office survey will be £30,550.

By procuring a single supplier for people surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

West Bank

14. **Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on restrictions on movement of Palestinians in the west bank; and if he will make a statement. [311326]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK welcomes Israel's recent easing of restrictions on movement in the west bank and urges Israel to continue to remove barriers. We also look forward to the implementation of the ruling by the Israeli High Court, on 29 December 2009, which allowed for Palestinians to be able to access Route 443.

Iranian Nuclear Programme

15. **Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his overseas counterparts on the Iranian nuclear programme. [311327]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Addressing Iran's nuclear programme is our top foreign policy concern. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed this with each of his E3+3 colleagues since the beginning of December, as well as with EU and other Foreign Ministers.

Iran must restore the international community's confidence in its nuclear programme. We will continue to pursue the dual track approach of engagement and pressure.

Turkey

16. **Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political situation in Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [311328]

Chris Bryant: The political situation in Turkey is stable—the Justice and Development Party have been in power since 2002.

We support the Turkish Government's 'democratic opening', including reforming Kurdish rights.

Following a constitutional court ruling on the closure of the DTP (pro-Kurdish party) in December, we supported an EU statement expressing concern.

Piracy

17. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had [illegible] policy to combat piracy round the horn of Africa [illegible] off the coast of Somalia. [311329]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary chairs cross-Government work on UK strategy and has held regular discussions with EU counterparts. The UK is leading the EU counter-piracy naval operation. We are instrumental in improving wider international naval co-ordination mechanisms, and we are engaging with the shipping industry to improve self-protection measures. We are also working with partners to tackle the root causes of piracy including improving the rule of law, a sustainable economy and alternative livelihoods.

Middle East Peace Envoy

18. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received from the Quartet's middle east peace envoy on the envoy's activities. [311330]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Office of the Quartet Representative reports regularly to Quartet members and donors. The most recent report we received was on 13 January 2010, confirming they had secured an extension of the Tarkumiya commercial goods crossing opening hours.

Pakistan-Afghanistan Border

19. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on the security situation along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. [311331]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan on 9-10 January 2010 to talk about the London Conference on Afghanistan and wider issues. He made clear that we recognise Pakistan's sacrifices in its ongoing campaign against militancy in the border region and support efforts to tackle extremism in all its forms. Long-term security in the border region requires regional co-operation and a comprehensive approach to stabilisation that also addresses development and governance needs. We encourage Pakistan to develop such plans for the border regions.

Iraq: Elections

20. **Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on arrangements for the forthcoming elections in Iraq. [311332]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Iraq's Independent Higher Electoral Commission (IHEC) will run the 7 March 2010 National Election. IHEC have successfully organised a number of elections now, including last January's provincial elections. We remain in regular contact with IHEC through our Baghdad embassy. The national election will be another significant step in Iraq's democratic journey.

Yemen

22. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage negotiations to resolve the conflict in Yemen. [311334]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The root causes of conflict in Yemen are a lack of governance and delivery of services by the state. The UK strategy is to tackle these causes, in co-operation with the international community. The meeting in London on 27 January 2010 is part of that wider strategy, and will seek to help the international community co-ordinate its response to these issues and support for the efforts of the government of Yemen.

25. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Yemen. [311337]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Yemen continues to face economic crisis and state failure. Any worsening of the instability, terrorist activity and poverty present in Yemen will have a detrimental effect on security—within Yemen and in the region. The meeting in London on 27 January 2010 is part of our wider strategy towards Yemen, which aims to work with the international community to support the efforts of the Yemeni Government to address the fundamental problems it is facing.

Military Attachés

23. **Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many military attachés are assigned to the British embassies in Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. [311335]

Chris Bryant: The UK has defence attachés in Sweden and Estonia. The attaché in Sweden also serves as non-resident attaché to Finland, while that in Estonia is non-resident attaché to Latvia and Lithuania.

Decisions regarding the deployment of defence attachés are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence.

Pakistan

24. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [311336]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan on 9-10 January 2010 and spoke to President Zardari, Prime Minister Gilani, Foreign Minister Qureshi and Interior Minister Malik. He was encouraged to see that key parties are working together around a common agenda to consolidate the political progress made. We hope that this co-operation continues. The UK supports Pakistan's democratic institutions and will continue to pursue our interests with the government of the day.

EU Accession: Turkey

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on Turkey's accession to the EU as part of the next phase of EU enlargement. [311333]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary assessed progress in Turkey's accession negotiations in the enlargement discussions at the EU General Affairs Council in December 2009.

At the Foreign Secretary's talks with the Turkish Foreign Minister last week he reiterated the UK's support for Turkey's EU membership and encouraged Turkey to continue making the necessary reforms.

Ascension Island

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress he has made in discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on the future financial arrangements for Ascension Island. [311125]

Chris Bryant: As Minister with responsibility for the Overseas Territories, I met with the Minister for the Armed Forces on 2 December 2009 to discuss Ascension Island as he indicated in response to the hon. Member's question on this issue on 1 December 2009.

Discussions are continuing between the Ministers, officials and the Ascension Island government. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has funded a revenue specialist to review tax arrangements on the island. That review has been completed and the draft report will shortly be considered by the Ascension Island Council and government. The review will contribute to the reform process already in hand to put the finances of Ascension Island government on a sustainable footing.

Colombia: Overseas Trade

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Canadian and *(b)* Norwegian counterpart on the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the EU and Colombia. [311927]

Chris Bryant: I discussed the EU-Colombia Free Trade Agreement during a meeting with the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs in December 2009. I confirmed that the UK believes that such agreements can help to create the right circumstances for improved prosperity and stability, where human rights stand a better chance of flourishing. I have had no recent meetings with my Norwegian counterpart.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Equateur province of Western Congo; and if he will make a statement. [310632]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Congolese Army (FARDC) have carried out operations in Equateur province against insurgents based in the south near Dongo. The UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC) has supplied logistical support to the FARDC in this. MONUC assistance has been conditional. The insurgents are still active and have carried out attacks against FARDC in early January 2010. Our assessment is that despite recent successes of the FARDC in reclaiming villages from the insurgents this situation is not over yet. The area is unsafe and we continue to monitor the situation closely.

Difficult terrain and security concerns have prevented the humanitarian agencies getting access, although some are starting to deploy now, such as the World Food Programme. The UN humanitarian pooled fund is available to agencies which begin work there, last year DFID contributed £35 million to the pooled fund.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many countries are involved in the training of the Congolese army; how many official languages are used in such training; what assessment he has made of the effect of the number of languages on the effectiveness of the training provided by the UN peacekeeping force in that country (MONUC); and if he will make a statement. [310633]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ten countries, including the UK, US and China—and the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC)—are involved in training the Congolese army. Several countries from MONUC assist with training the more notable ones being Pakistan and India. MONUC are also just about to use Tanzanian troops which will train 12 Congolese Army (FARDC) Infantry battalions in the next year. This is part-funded by the UK who provided £400,000 for Barrack Infrastructure Repairs for the training camps.

We estimate that seven official languages are used in training. We recognise that language differences can hinder co-ordination; to respond to this the UK runs a 'peacekeeping English' course to ensure that the FARDC and MONUC can communicate effectively when working together. So far the UK has trained over 1,000 trainers, who can then go on to disseminate English teaching throughout the FARDC. We have also trained over 40 interpreters.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the Government have put forward for the reconfiguration of the UN peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) following the expiry of its mandate in May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [310634]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have not put forward any new proposals for the reconfiguration of the UN peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). Security Council Resolution 1906 was agreed on 23 December 2009 and requests the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative to produce an Integrated Strategic Framework, covering the roles of the wider UN in the country, by 16 February 2010; and the Secretary-General to carry out a strategic review of MONUC by 1 April 2010.

The outcomes of these reports and progress on Protection of Civilians, Disarmament Demobilisation Reintegration Resettlement or Repatriation Security Sector Reform and developments in the security situation will provide the basis for discussion of any reconfiguring of MONUC with Security Council partners.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what advertising campaigns his Department has been responsible in each of the last three years; which such campaigns *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10; and what the cost of each such campaign has been. [310206]

Chris Bryant: All spending on advertising is in support of our departmental strategic objectives. So far in 2009-10 we have spent the following on advertising campaigns:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) recruitment advertising: £85,057 on seven new recruitment campaigns.

FCO Services recruitment advertising: £91,094.

The Know Before You Go, Travel Safety Campaign advertising: £207,711. (This figure includes TV and Radio filler production and promotions.).

In previous years we have spent the following on advertising for the Know Before You Go campaign:

2008-09: £473,069

2007-08: £212,178.

All Know Before You Go activity is funded by the Consular Premium, which is levied on all passport applications, and by fees we charge for other documentary services.

Authority to advertise for local jobs overseas is devolved to directorates and posts. Information on this spending is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For other figures relating to previous years I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock to the noble Lord Newby on 11 November 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA168.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many iPods have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311910]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and is only available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* citizens' juries and *(b)* summits have been hosted by his Department since June 2007; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310238]

Chris Bryant: None.

EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any parts of the contents of the speech by Baroness Ashton in her capacity as EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, delivered to the European Parliament on 15 December 2009, do not represent the policy of the Government. [311821]

Chris Bryant: Baroness Ashton's speech set out existing EU policies and offered her personal view on the way ahead in some areas. All Common Foreign and Security Policies are agreed by the UK, including the Conclusions of 8 December 2009 by the Foreign Affairs Council to which Baroness Ashton refers.

European Economic and Social Committee

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Government use to select candidates for nomination to serve on Section III of the European Economic and Social Committee. [311423]

Chris Bryant: Within Section III, potential UK candidates should be able to demonstrate detailed, up-to-date knowledge and experience in one or more of a number of areas, including, but not limited to, services sectors, small business, research, agriculture, consumer interests, environmental interests, youth experience or sustainable development. This list is not exhaustive. All candidates should be able to contribute effectively to the Committee in promoting UK interests in their chosen field.

Where possible, the UK delegation as a whole should reflect levels of national diversity. This includes race, religion and belief, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability. It is also desirable that members come from all parts of the UK (although European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) members do not represent regions) and be representative of a wide range of interests and experience.

Every candidate should have enough time available to prepare for and attend EESC meetings. Delegates are expected to spend at least 60 days a year in Brussels on Committee business, in addition to time spent conducting research and travelling.

Maritime Protection Zone

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what organisations his Department has consulted on the proposed Maritime Protection Zone for the Chagos Archipelago. [311609]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has discussed the possibility of establishing a marine protected area (MPA) in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) with a wide range of stakeholders. These include the Governments of the United States and Mauritius, other concerned Government Departments, the National Oceanography Centre, the British Geological Survey, non-governmental organisations and other organisations involved in the Chagos Environment Network (including the Chagos Conservation Trust and the Pew Environment Group) and a range of individual scientists and environmentalists. The FCO has consulted those involved in the establishment of other large scale MPAs, in particular the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument and the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

In order to consult as widely as possible the FCO launched a public consultation on the establishment of an MPA in BIOT on 10 November 2009. The consultation has been brought to the attention of the public in Mauritius and the Seychelles through our high commissions there and the consultation facilitator will be travelling out to Port Louis and Victoria later this month to listen to the views of the Chagossian communities and other stakeholders in Mauritius and the Seychelles. The FCO has also taken steps to draw this consultation to the attention of members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

The purpose of the consultation is to seek views more widely from all stakeholders and interested parties to help the Government assess the right option for the future environmental protection of the Territory. The consultation period runs to 12 February 2010.

South Africa

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Minister of his Department last visited South Africa; and what the purpose of the visit was. [310420]

Chris Bryant: My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock, Minister of State for Africa, visited South Africa from 2 to 4 November 2009. The purpose of the visit was to engage with the South African Government and civil society interlocutors on a wide range of shared UK and South African regional and international priorities.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* the economy, *(b)* the health service and *(c)* tourism provision in the Turks and Caicos Islands since the suspension of the constitution and institution of direct government by the Governor. [310993]

Chris Bryant: In his latest quarterly statement

www.turksandcaicosislands.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/nov-statement

the Governor outlined steps that have been taken to improve the economic situation through the restoration of sound financial management. This included a review of Turks and Caicos Islands government financial management practices; completion of the 2009-10 budget; steps to bring expenditure and revenue in line, including the introduction of strict expenditure controls and enforcing the payment of dues and taxes. Discussions have been held with banks to secure a consolidated loan facility to reduce the burden of unpaid Bills and short term debt built up by the previous government. This will create a more predictable development for private sector investment.

Enrolment for a new National Health Insurance Plan (NHIP) began on 1 October 2009—this will help pay for two new hospitals on the islands of Providenciales and Grand Turk, both due to open on 10 April 2010. Work has been undertaken to ensure that the requirements and responsibilities for both NHIP and the hospital projects are clearly understood by officials, and are also explained to the public.

Following the establishment of a Working Group on the promotion of tourism, its initial report and recommendations were considered by the Advisory Council on 14 December 2009.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 307049, on officials serving at overseas posts, tabled on 9 December 2009. [311589]

David Miliband: The question was answered on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 975-76W.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact there has been between the Minister of State for Africa and members of the unity Government of Zimbabwe since October 2009; and if he will make a statement. [310635]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Minister of State for Africa, Baroness Kinnock, welcomed Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga, Minister of Regional Integration and International Cooperation, to London on 20 October 2009. Among more general issues, they discussed the Movement for Democratic Change's then recent disengagement from executive engagement with ZANU-PF and Zimbabwe's dialogue with the EU. The Minister has not had the opportunity to have direct contact with other members of the Inclusive Government. The nature of our future engagement with the Inclusive Government is very much dependent on its progress against the Global Political Agreement. The Minister regularly raises Zimbabwe with our international partners, urging the Southern African Development Community states to remain engaged on Zimbabwe.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress by the unity Government of Zimbabwe in re-drafting that country's constitution since the signing of the Global Political Agreement in September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [310636]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: With our international partners we believe that the constitution making process called for in the Global Political Agreement is key to Zimbabwe's recovery. Much of the current imbalance of power is enshrined in the constitution and the constitution making process is an important step towards the next elections. Although the process has slipped from the timetable stipulated by the Global Political Agreement, a parliamentary committee on constitutional reform has been established and training for committee members began on 11 January 2010, in preparation for the period of public consultation.

The UK is working closely with other donors to support civil society organisations to ensure all communities are aware of the constitutional reform process and properly equipped to feed into it.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on proposals for the future EU sanctions regime against Zimbabwe; and when he next expects the EU to review its sanctions programme in respect of that country. [310638]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU is reviewing its measures against those individuals and entities connected to human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. The measures do not harm ordinary Zimbabweans or impede the country's economic development. The EU review will assess the future of the measures in the light of progress in reform by the Government of Zimbabwe. We expect the EU decision to be made in February 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* planning appeals have been made in respect of telecommunications masts in the last five years. [310688]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not hold information on the number of planning applications in respect of telecommunications masts.

The number of planning appeals relating to telecommunications development received for the period 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2009 is 2,565. This figure includes telecommunications masts and other types of telecommunications development.

Affordable Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social homes were *(a)* built and *(b)* acquired in rural areas in each year since 1990. [305274]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of homes built and acquired for social rent in rural areas in England each year since 1991-92. Figures are not available for 1990-91.

In 1997 there was a significant backlog of social housing repairs, more than 2 million homes failing basic decency standards and too many of society's most vulnerable people on the streets or in bed and breakfast accommodation. Therefore, funds were prioritised into tackling the quality of the existing social housing stock which while resulting in a decrease in new affordable homes being built led to significant inroads on delivering decent homes and tackling rough sleeping. In more recent years, increased funding has led to an increase in affordable housing.

New social rented homes built and acquired in rural Areas[1]

	Number of social homes built	*Number of social homes acquired*
1991-92	7,320	420
1992-93	13,090	4,070
1993-94	13,170	1,640
1994-95	12,640	2,610
1995-96	13,940	3,120
1996-97	10,080	3,450
1997-98	8,750	3,350
1998-99	8,050	3,550
1999-2000	7,100	3,130
2000-01	6,490	3,000
2001-02	6,520	2,510
2002-03	6,090	2,100
2003-04	6,700	1,340
2004-05	6,770	910
2005-06	7,010	750
2006-07	7,620	580
2007-08	9,340	740
2008-09	10,840	450

[1] Based on DEFRA classification of local authorities.

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Total affordable housing supply includes intermediate rent and Low Cost Home Ownership, as well as homes for Social Rent. In 2007-08, a total of 16,610 affordable homes were completed in rural local authorities through new build and acquisitions. Total affordable housing supply statistics for 2008-09 were released by CLG on 8 December 2009.

These figures reflect the delivery of affordable housing in the 178 local authorities defined as rural by the DEFRA Rural Definition (2004).

Affordable Housing: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on improving social housing in Nottingham North constituency since 1997. [308988]

Mr. Ian Austin: Unfortunately, it is not possible to disaggregate expenditure on social housing within Nottingham by parliamentary constituency. Total expenditure on stock owned by Nottingham city council across the city for each year since 1997-98 is given in the following table:

	Expenditure (£000)
1997-98	20,858
1998-99	15,506
1999-2000	10,065
2000-01	16,240
2001-02	21,099
2002-03	29,531
2003-04	26,102
2004-05	36,227
2005-06	33,638
2006-07	40,515
2007-08	39,827
2008-09	30,379
2009-10 (planned expenditure)	56,702
Total	376,689

The Government have no data available identifying expenditure by registered social landlords on improvements to properties they own within Nottingham North or the city as a whole.

There has also been significant investment to deliver new social housing in Nottingham through the National Affordable Housing Programme. Since 2004 Nottingham has received £ 13.3 million to deliver new homes for rent or low cost home ownership including £7 million so far through the current 2008-11 programme.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has also funded Nottingham city council to develop a Local Housing Company to deliver an extra 5,000 new homes over the next five years and in 2009, Nottingham city council was successful in a £200 million PFI bid to the HCA to transform the meadows neighbourhood. Both initiatives will provide a mix of social and private affordable housing.

Airfields: St. Albans

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from Helioslough regarding the former aerodrome site in St. Albans following the conclusion of the inquiry. [311757]

Mr. Ian Austin: There have been no representations received from Helioslough since the close of the inquiry.

Bankruptcy: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment his Department has made of rates of bankruptcies in coastal towns; and what steps he is taking to reduce those rates. [310715]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply

As there are no official boundary definitions for coastal towns, there are no official statistics available at this level. However, statistics for unitary authorities can be found on the Insolvency Service website at the following link:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstatisticsmenu.htm

There has been no assessment carried out by Government specifically relating to bankruptcy rates in coastal towns.

The Government recognise that seaside towns have a distinctive role to play in sub-regional and regional economies. It supports efforts by the regional development agencies (RDAs), to ensure that seaside towns in their regions are helped to achieve their full economic potential.

Initiatives such as the New Deal for Communities, Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, and the Sea Change programme have benefited some seaside towns.

Local area agreements (LAAs) are helping local authorities, including those with seaside towns, to work alongside partners to improve public services and the quality of life for people living and working in their areas. Multi area agreements (MAAs) are enabling some seaside towns, such as the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole partnerships, to develop stronger approaches to improving skills level, transport and sustainable growth.

The cross-Government working group on coastal towns, led by CLG, in partnership with the RDA Coastal Areas Network, is identifying areas where more can be done and to highlight existing best practice in coastal town regeneration.

Council Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much net revenue has been raised in council tax in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms based on 2010 prices in each year since 1997-98. [312004]

Barbara Follett: The net revenue collected through council tax in both cash and real terms (£ million) in each year since 1997-98 are given in the following table.

The data are taken from the quarterly return of council tax and non-domestic rates returns completed annually by all billing authorities in England and the real terms data are given at 2008-09 prices.

		£ million
	Cash	*Real terms*
1997-98	9,488	12,990
1998-99	10,459	13,766
1999-2000	11,318	14,661
2000-01	12,242	15,401
2001-02	13,208	16,328
2002-03	14,511	17,674
2003-04	16,392	19,360
2004-05[1]	17,372	20,019
2005-06	18,419	20,572
2006-07	19,315	21,036
2007-08	20,374	21,227
2008-09	21,319	21,319

[1] Data for two authorities not received in 2004-05

Council Tax: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of properties which have been revalued for council tax purposes in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last three years; and how many such revaluations resulted in a change of council tax banding. [311014]

Barbara Follett: No properties have been revalued for council tax purposes as no council tax revaluation is taking place. For the number of changes to bandings in the 1993 Lists for each local authority in England, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1039W, and 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 701W. Changes to bandings for the West Chelmsford constituency area could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Non-payment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the transfer of arrangements for council tax enforcement from magistrates courts to county courts; whether any consultation on the transfer will take place; and whether primary legislation will be necessary to enable the transfer to take place. [311535]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W. No decision has been taken yet about whether to extend the council tax enforcement regime in this way.

Council Tax: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have made of the merits to holding a council tax revaluation in England in the next Parliament. [311630]

Barbara Follett: No consideration has been given to holding a council tax revaluation in England in the next Parliament.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answers to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 701W, and of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on council tax: valuation, what potential numbers were established by Mr. Tim Eden after contact with group valuation officers. [311832]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to answers provided to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 924-25W. No detailed analysis was undertaken nor were any potential numbers estimated or calculated.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311260]

Barbara Follett: In December 2009 Communities and Local Government paid 92.91 per cent. of invoices within 10 days.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310533]

Barbara Follett: The total area of occupied office space rented by the Department for Communities and Local Government is 25,798 sq m (net internal area), with a passing rent of £14,759,735 per annum exclusive of rates.

The total area of vacant office space rented by the Department is 894 sq m (net internal area). The passing rent for this office space is £124,643 per annum exclusive of rates.

The Department does not own any freehold office space.

Departmental Contracts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much his Department paid to each of its suppliers of goods and services in 2007-08. [311540]

(2) to what suppliers of goods and services his Department paid over £50,000 in 2007-08. [311711]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309882]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government do not record this information.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many iPods have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311904]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310808]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government generated the following quantity of food waste during the last three years:

CLG central	*Food waste (tonnes)*
2006-07[1]	21.6
2007-08	19.1
2008-09	39.3

[1] No data are held prior to 2006-07, i.e. before the composting initiative was implemented.

Since 2006, the Department has sent all of its separated food waste to a composting facility rather than to landfill.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which websites his Department's staff are prevented from accessing on departmental networked computers. [311467]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government (CLG) maintain information security management policies setting out how we comply with the mandatory minimum security requirements set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF), particularly Security Policy No. 4: Information Security and Assurance. This policy dictates the type of websites that users may not access, and users sign off and agree to follow security operating procedures to that end. These policies are regularly reviewed and updated and include staff training and awareness programmes.

CLG's information security and risk management policies are in line with the SPF, particularly Mandatory Requirement 39. MR 39 requires Departments to comply with the requirements of any codes of connection, including technical and procedural policies to manage the risks posed by all forms of malicious software (including viruses, spyware and phishing etc). This includes patching policies, boundary security devices and content checking/blocking policies. More information is available at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/spf/sp4_isa.aspx

The list of blocked sites runs into thousands and is compiled and managed by contracted third parties on our behalf. It is updated daily. A precise list of blocked sites would be extensive and changes regularly.

Also, such information being made public could assist adversaries in identifying vulnerabilities and circumventing information security controls, thereby exposing CLG to greater risk from attacks.

Departmental Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1121W, on departmental recruitment, how many of the 87 policy advisers are on fixed term contracts; and what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* division of each adviser is. [308524]

Barbara Follett: An error has been identified in the answer given to question 292982 on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1121W. The number of posts with "policy adviser" included in the job title in the Department for Communities and Local Government on 21 December 2009 is 242. This revised number is based on a wider search under the two possible spellings of adviser/advisor, used interchangeably by staff when entering job details on our staff data system. It does not represent an increase in the number of staff in this type of role.

Of these staff, three are on fixed-term contracts. The job title and division of each post is as follows:

1. Policy Adviser: Strategy, Performance and Delivery Directorate
2. Senior Policy Adviser: Cohesion and Faiths Division
3. Policy Advisor: Housing Supply Division.

Departmental Research

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research projects commissioned by his Department have not yet reported. [311539]

Barbara Follett: Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes details of projects that have not yet reported.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the results from his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the total cost of the survey was. [310766]

Barbara Follett: We are still awaiting the full results of the October 2009 CLG staff survey and expect to place these on the CLG website during February 2010. Following publication, we will also place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier for the survey was ORC International which was procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-Civil Service people survey. The people survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

This Department is meeting the costs of the survey for all participating CLG Group organisations including the main Department, the Government offices, the Planning Inspectorate, Ordnance Survey and the Fire Service College. To date, the cost of the survey for the CLG Group is £72,000 plus VAT. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10, the Civil Service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 140W, on departmental recruitment, how many specialist staff in his Department are on time-limited contracts; what the job title is of each such specialist; and in what division of his Department each works. [307212]

Barbara Follett: As at 14 December 2009, there were nine specialist staff on time-limited contracts. The Department defines 'specialist' as a role which requires a qualification in a specific field (or work towards a specific qualification) or a highly specialised skill set to undertake the work.

The job titles as recorded by staff on our database and divisions of these posts are as follows:

Job title	*Division*
Knowledge Management Policy and Library Services team member	Knowledge Management
Member of Legal Directorate	Regeneration
Web Designer	Planning System Improvement
Legal Trainee	Employment, Commercial and Specialist Drafting
Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser	Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser's Office
Legal Trainee	Local Government

Job title	*Division*
Assistant Scientific Officer	Research and Statistics Division
Research Manager	Planning System Improvement
High Potential Leadership Programme team member	Fire and Rescue Service Development

Export Credits Guarantee Dept

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason his Department paid £309,699 to the Export Credits Guarantee Department in 2008-09. [311537]

Barbara Follett: This payment relates to the Thames Gateway delivery team's lease at Exchange Tower, Harbour Exchange Square, London E14.

Green Belt

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department is taking to protect the green belt in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry; [310676]

(2) what his Department's policy is for the future of the green belt. [310678]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government have a continuing commitment to the protection of green belt and its crucial characteristics of openness and permanence. Among the policies set out in PPG2 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts") to guide decision-makers is a presumption against allowing inappropriate development on green belt land.

Only in exceptional circumstances may green belt boundaries be altered. Any proposal for significant change in green belt area has to be made during the preparation of regional strategy. Any essential adjustment of the boundary of a green belt is for the local planning authority to propose as part of the local plan process. The Secretary of State monitors emerging regional strategies and local plans to ensure they are consistent with national policy. Government offices make representations to the independent examinations of draft Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks if the approach proposed is not consistent with PPG2. There are no plans to change the policy set out in PPG2.

With regard to Coventry, the draft regional spatial strategy has been examined, including the need and justification for green belt adjustments around Coventry. The panel supported the case made in the draft RSS for green belt adjustments. The Secretary of State is currently preparing his proposed changes to the RSS which will be consulted on in due course.

The Coventry core strategy is currently at examination. The inspector appointed to examine the plan held hearing sessions on green belt matters, and considered evidence to justify the need, or otherwise to release land from the green belt. The hearing sessions ended on 4 December and the inspector's report into the soundness of the document is expected in April 2010.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for development on green belt land his Department has received in each of the last five years. [310677]

Mr. Ian Austin: Applications for development, including within the green belt, are made to local planning authorities and not to the Secretary of State. Although the Department does collect aggregate statistics on the numbers of applications, these do not include details of the location of the application, such as within the green belt.

Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people have been accommodated by local authorities under severe weather emergency procedures in the last 31 days; [311926]

(2) which local authorities provide accommodation for rough sleepers under severe weather emergency procedures. [311925]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department asks all local authorities to have plans in place to ensure that there is cold weather provision for any rough sleepers, so they can be brought in from the street. Severe weather emergency procedures are a matter for individual local authorities and CLG does not keep records.

Officials have been working closely with councils and homelessness charities to provide advice given the extreme conditions. We are making available an additional £75,000 to local authorities.

In addition, in London, CLG fund a cold weather shelter for up to 100 rough sleepers run by St. Mungo's. We have also provided additional resources to Thames Reach's Street Rescue Service which provides a rapid response service to get people off the street.

Housing: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first-time buyers purchased a home in the London borough of Bexley in the last three years. [310690]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government do not hold the information requested.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders does publish data on number of first time buyers buying a home with a mortgage for the UK but not geographies below regional level. The UK data can be found at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mortgages were approved in respect of purchases in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [310691]

Mr. Ian Austin: Data on numbers of mortgage approvals for house purchase are published by the Bank of England. However data are only available for the UK as a whole. The UK data can be found at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/statistics.htm

Housing: Ex-servicemen

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities require applicants for independent living adaptations and equipment to disclose former service as armed forces personnel. [311204]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since December 2008 the disabled facilities grant has disregarded both War Pensions Scheme for disablement of 80 per cent. or higher and a constant attendance allowance and capital lump sums through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and guaranteed income payment (tariff level 1-6). This means that they are now not taken into account in the disabled facilities grant means test. All local authorities require applicants to confirm whether they are in receipt of these as Communities and Local Government reimburse local authorities on an actual basis when a grant has been paid to qualifying former service personnel. This is in addition to a disregard for all those in receipt of war disablement pensions or pensions payable to war widows or widowers.

Illegal Immigrants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many persons later discovered to be illegal immigrants his Department has employed in each of the last three years. [311536]

Barbara Follett: I can confirm that the Department for Communities and Local Government has no record of having employed any illegal immigrants within the last three years.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to require local authorities to publish online details of all expenditure on goods and services costing over £500. [309007]

Barbara Follett: In relation to procurement, local authorities are independent bodies operating within the statutory framework and, where there is no existing requirement to publish such information, it would be for individual authorities to decide whether or not they wished to make available online information about goods and services they have purchased costing over £500.

In December 2009, the Government set up the Local Public Data Panel chaired by Professor Nigel Shadbolt, to promote and champion the public data agenda among local government, encouraging them to publish available data in an accessible form.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rate of local government *(a)* cost and *(b)* wage inflation his Department has assumed for the purposes of calculating grants under the local government finance settlement for 2010-11. [311546]

Barbara Follett: No assumption on the rate of local government cost and pay inflation is made in determining the local government finance settlement. Cost and wage pressures are considered carefully as part of Spending Reviews. Differences in labour and rates costs between areas are reflected in the Area Cost Adjustment.

Over the three years of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review settlement period, Government are providing an additional £8.6 billion to local authorities. This is an average 4 per cent. cash increase per year in funding.

Local Government: Bank Services

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of progress made by local authorities in obtaining the return of 100 per cent. of their deposits from the Icelandic Winding Up Board of Glitnir Bank; how much each local authority held in deposits with Glitnir Bank; and what steps are being taken to ensure recognition of UK local authority deposits as a priority claim. [311520]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities are directly represented on the Resolution Committee, which is responsible for the administration of Glitnir bank, including consideration of the issue of depositor preference. The following table gives total investments in Glitnir bank by each local authority in England as at 31 December 2008.

This information was published as part of a CLG statistical release and can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/icelandicbanks31122008rev

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest estimate is of the monetary value of efficiency savings local authorities are expected to make in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; and what proportion of such savings are required to be (i) cashable and (ii) non-cashable. [311533]

Barbara Follett: Local Government has a target to achieve at least 3 per cent. efficiency savings per year over the first two years of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07) period (2008-09 and 2009-10) and 4 per cent. savings in 2010-11. Overall, we expect local authorities to achieve £5.5 billion cumulative savings by the end of 2010-11, of which we expect £3.2 billion to be delivered by 2009-10. Local authorities have recently forecast that they will deliver £3.1 billion cumulative savings by the end of 2009-10. There are no expectations with respect to non-cashable efficiencies in the CSR07 period.

No target has been set for efficiency savings to be delivered in 2011-12. The 2009 pre-Budget report set out the potential for local government to make £800 million savings by 2012-13, of which: £550 million could come from more efficient waste collection and disposal, reducing the burden of inspection, assessment and reporting requirements from across government, and measures to reduce duplication and inefficiency between different tiers of local government; and £250 million from reducing variations in spend on residential care. The pre-Budget report also stated that local government would make a significant contribution towards the £8 billion of operational efficiency programme savings identified for delivery by 2012-13.

Local Government: Equality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 471W, on local government: equality, how much funding has been provided to local authorities *(a)* under the formula grant system and *(b)* through specific grants to fund the new burdens imposed by equality and diversity legislation and regulation in the last 12 months. [311627]

Barbara Follett: Parliament has not yet passed the Equality Bill. In the event that it becomes law, the Government would provide funding through the formula grant system or through specific grants as appropriate.

Local Government: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees were employed by local authorities in each year since 1996-97. [311545]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold records of the number of people employed by local authorities. The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector including local authorities in England and Wales as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey. Data from this survey have been published with written permission from all local authorities by the Local Government Association on their website and are available at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1955843

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 228W, on local government: pay, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance on local authority chief executive salaries issued by the Joint Negotiating Committee. [311803]

Barbara Follett: The guidance on local authority chief executives salaries, the Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Executives: 'National Salary Framework and Conditions of Service Handbook, September 2009' is not published by the Department. It is available on the Local Government Employers' website at:

http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/dio/2546689

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residents of *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(c)* England have received support through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme since its inception. [311010]

John Healey: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January to September 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities from January to September 2009 are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library. Data are not collected at constituency level.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

Data for the October to December period will be published on 11 February 2010.

Negative Equity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of households in negative equity. [311623]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not make estimates of the number of households in negative equity.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much net revenue has been raised in business rates in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms based on 2010 prices in each year since 1997-98. [312003]

Barbara Follett: The net revenue collected through national non-domestic rates in both cash and real terms (£ million) in each year since 1997-98 are given in the following table.

The data are taken from the quarterly return of council tax and non-domestic rates returns completed annually by all billing authorities in England and the real terms data are given at 2008-09 prices.

		£ million
	Cash	*Real terms*
1997-98	11,197	15,330
1998-99	11,393	14,994
1999-2000	11,873	15,380
2000-01	13,083	16,459
2001-02	14,382	17,780
2002-03	14,751	17,966
2003-04	14,611	17,255
2004-05[1]	14,842	17,104
2005-06	15,892	17,750
2006-07	17,004	18,519
2007-08	17,276	18,000
2008-09	18,691	18,691

[1] Data for two authorities not received in 2004-05

Non-Domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many petrol station outlets will be eligible for rural rate relief from 1 April 2010; [311053]

(2) how many petrol retail outlets will be eligible for small business rate relief after 1 April 2010. [311082]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency use for the allocation of a hereditament to (i) the central rating list and (ii) local rating lists. [311538]

Barbara Follett: Valuation officers are responsible for deciding whether a hereditament should be assessed on a local rating list or on the central rating list. The criteria for allocating a hereditament to the central list are contained in the Central Rating List (England) Regulations 2005 SI 2005 No 551. Relevant non-domestic hereditaments which do not fall to be shown on the central rating list are assessed by valuation officers on local rating lists.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Pedestrian Areas: Snow and Ice

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the contribution of Lord Davies of Oldham of 2 February 2004, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 444, on footpaths and roads: de-icing, whether his Department has provided guidance to local authorities on the personal liability of householders who seek to clear the pavement or highway of ice or snow. [311834]

Barbara Follett: This is a matter for the Department for Transport as it concerns highway issues. As such it would be for the Department for Transport to issue any advice on clearing pavements that run alongside roads.

Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's dataset Live Tables P109, on development control statistics, whether the data for planning applications which are deemed not to have been granted include applications which have been *(a)* refused and *(b)* undetermined within the 13 week period. [311530]

Mr. Ian Austin: Table PI09 shows the number of residential planning decisions, split by major and minor, those that have been granted and those that have been decided within eight weeks (for minor) and 13 weeks (for major).

Residential planning decisions can either be granted or refused. Therefore the number of decisions not granted is equal to the number refused.

The table includes only those applications that have been decided. Therefore, applications not granted will include those applications that are undetermined within 13 weeks but which are refused subsequent to this timeframe. Note that the applications decided within a period are not necessarily those that are received within that period.

Planning Permission: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of planning applications for new housing developments in Halifax have been refused since 2005. [310459]

Mr. Ian Austin: No information is available on the number of planning applications for new housing development in Halifax.

The number of planning applications decided for new housing development in Calderdale local authority district, and the number and percentage that were refused in the last five years is listed in the following table:

	Residential decisions	*Number refused*	*Percentage refused*
2008-09	373	122	33
2007-08	545	182	33
2006-07	592	188	32
2005-06	603	190	32
2004-05	541	157	29

Political Activities

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1647W, on political impartiality, if he will place in the Library a copy of the pages from his Department's staff handbook relevant to politically-restricted activity. [311529]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the pages of the Department's staff handbook relating to guidance on political impartiality have been placed in the Library.

Private Rented Housing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to bring forward proposals to amend private tenancy law. [311608]

Mr. Ian Austin: We consulted over the summer on our response to the independent review of the private rented sector carried out by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York. This included a number of proposals which would require legislation. We have been considering the consultation responses received and plan to publish the results shortly.

Private Rented Housing: Registration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Government response to the Rugg Review consultation on the private rented sector, whether the proposed legislation will give Ministers the power to provide for local authorities to take over the management of a landlord's housing stock if a landlord failed to register. [311526]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our response to the Rugg review, published for consultation over the summer, included proposals to set up a national register of private landlords. We have been considering the consultation responses received and plan to publish the results shortly.

Property Development: Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* new and *(b)* affordable homes were built in areas at risk from flooding in each of the last three years. [302828]

Mr. Ian Austin: The estimated number and percentage of all new dwellings built in areas of high flood risk in England in the last three years is given in the following table.

	Estimated dwellings built in areas of high flood risk	*Percentage of all new dwellings built in areas of high flood risk*
2006	14,500	9
2007	15,700	9
2008	12,800	9

Information on the number and proportion of affordable homes built in areas of high flood risk could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Environment Agency has statutory responsibility for flood risk management and flood defence in England. It has an important advisory role in all stages of the plan-making process, being a statutory consultee on the preparation of regional spatial strategies and local development plans. Local planning authorities are required to consult the Agency on all applications for planning permission (except for minor development) in areas with a medium or high probability of flooding, or in areas notified as having critical drainage problems (collectively known as "flood risk areas"), and for development on land exceeding one hectare outside flood risk areas.

The Agency also provides advice on the preparation of flood risk assessments at the regional, district/local and development site levels. The Environment Agency can ask for any planning application to which it objects to be called in for decision by the Secretary of State. In addition, the (planning) Consultation Direction requires that planning applications for major developments (e.g., of 10 or more homes, or 1,000 square metres of new floorspace) in flood risk areas where there is an outstanding Environment Agency objection on flood risk grounds, must be referred to the Secretary of State for consideration of whether they should be called in.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department and its agencies have allocated to regional design panels since their inception. [308535]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its agency do not directly allocate funding to regional design panels.

Tony Clements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Tony Clements, which Minister *(a)* authorised and *(b)* approved the appointment of Mr Clements as a policy adviser in the Strategy and Performance Directorate; [308388]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 8460W, on Tony Clements, under what permitted exception Mr. Clements was appointed as a policy advisor; and whether the Civil Service Commissioners were consulted on that appointment. [308490]

Barbara Follett: Civil service appointments are made by officials. Fixed-term appointments of less than two years are a permitted exception to fair and open competition. There is no requirement to consult the Civil Service Commissioners on permitted exceptions.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 8460W, on Tony Clements, how many other employees have been appointed in the last three years under permitted exceptions for fair and open competition contained in the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles; and what the job title was of each such employee. [308491]

Barbara Follett: Information on the number of employees appointed in the last three years under permitted exceptions to fair and open competition can be found in the Department's Annual Reports. Between 2007 and 2009, there were 157 appointments under permitted exceptions to fair and open competition. This figure excludes secondments out of the Department and those transferred in as a result of machinery of government changes.

Appointments under permitted exceptions to fair and open competition: 2007, 2008, 2009

Category	*Number*
Casual appointment extended over 12 months	4
Inward secondments	141
Extension to secondments	2
Re-appointments of former civil servants	10

Information on job titles is not retained centrally in a form that can be disaggregated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations the Planning Inspectorate has received from Green Planning Solutions in relation to planning appeals for Travellers in the last two years. [308254]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since January 2008, Green Planning Solutions have lodged 75 planning and enforcement appeals in relation to Gypsy and Traveller issues for determination by The Planning Inspectorate. A full list has been deposited in the Library.

Further representations were made by Green Planning Solutions, which led to Matthew Green meeting with Enforcement Procedural staff on 24 February 2009 to discuss general planning and programming matters as well as changes arising from the Planning Act 2008.

Vauxhall

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310333]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not available. The Department evaluates the impact of major programmes and policies. We do not assess the specific impacts on individual areas.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor Departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes details of evaluations.

Winter Fuel Payments: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many pensioners in Milton Keynes are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much his Department paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2009. [310770]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 841W.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(c)* Essex are employing apprentices. [311012]

Kevin Brennan: Record numbers of people are taking up and achieving an apprenticeship. Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in West Chelmsford constituency, Maldon and East Chelmsford constituency, and Essex local authority. Chelmsford local authority district area is made up of West Chelmsford and Maldon and East Chelmsford parliamentary constituencies and part of Rayleigh constituency.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency	330	320	300	340	380	390
Maldon and East Chelmsford parliamentary constituency	260	270	260	270	380	360
Rayleigh parliamentary constituency	260	300	260	250	300	390
Essex local authority	4,300	4,100	3,900	4,200	5,000	5,200

Notes:

1. Constituency volumes are rounded to the nearest ten local authority figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Parliamentary constituency and local authority are based upon the home postcode of the learner. Where the postcode is outside of England, learners are included in the 'Other' category. Where postcode is not known this is also included in the 'Other' category.
3. Chelmsford local authority district area is made up of West Chelmsford and Maldon and East Chelmsford parliamentary constituencies and part of Rayleigh parliamentary constituency.

Source:

WBL/ERIER

Information is not currently available on the size of the employer for apprentices. For the 2009-10 academic year, this information will become available on the ILR when a unique employer identifier will have to be provided by all employers of apprentices.

We can provide an estimate of the size of employers, nationally, that offer and have recruited apprentices from the National Employer Skills survey (NESS). These data are based on repeated surveys of around 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England. Table 2 shows information from the published 2007 National Employer Skills survey[1] on the number of organisations that had any staff undertaking an apprenticeship in the 12 months prior to interview, by size of employer.

[1] http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-nessurvey2007mainreport-may08.pdf

accessed on 14 January 2010.

Table 2: Percentage of employers that have recruited an apprentice in the last 12 months (NESS 2007)

	All employers	Number of employees of employer					
		2-4	5-24	25-99	100-199	200-499	500+
Percentage of employers that have recruited an apprentice over the previous 12 months (NESS 2007)	6	4	8	11	15	19	26

Aviation: Bahrain

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the participation of an RAF Typhoon fighter aircraft in an aerial display at the Bahrain International Airshow. [311456]

Ian Lucas: There are no plans for an RAF Typhoon to display at the Bahrain International Airshow owing to extensive demands currently placed on the Typhoon force as it is brought into full service with the RAF. Typhoon was on display in the region at the Dubai Air Show in November 2009.

UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation are participating in the event with a corporate chalet and an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Pavilion, showcasing Britain's world-leading unmanned systems technology.

Building Regulations

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many competent person schemes his Department manages; and which of these are registered with the UK Accreditation Service. [311418]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 12 competent person scheme operators authorised under the Building Regulations 2000. Some are authorised for more than one type of work.

United Kingdom Accreditation Service accreditation has not been a requirement for competent person scheme operators but the Department is currently consulting on a proposal to require such accreditation in future.

Companies: Shareholders

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what legislative provisions require *(a)* the convening of annual meetings by publicly-funded companies requiring the participation of ordinary shareholders and *(b)* the establishment of shareholder committees. [311268]

Ian Lucas: The requirement for public and traded companies to hold annual general meetings is in Section 336 of the Companies Act 2006. There are no separate provisions in companies legislation governing the convening of annual general meetings in publicly-funded companies. Companies legislation does not require the establishment of shareholder committees; this is a matter for companies and their shareholders to decide.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the extent of voting rights of shareholders in companies publicly operated in the UK; and what assessment he has made of the extent to which *(a)* banks and *(b)* stockbrokers have taken up powers in respect of nominee shareholders contained in the Companies Act 2006. [311269]

Ian Lucas: Shareholder rights in UK companies were considered as part of the Company Law Review and the implementation of the EU Shareholder Rights Directive. An assessment of the provisions of Part 9 of the Companies Act 2006, which deals with the exercise of shareholders' rights through nominees, will be made as part of the post-implementation evaluation of the Companies Act 2006.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311255]

Mr. McFadden: In December 2009 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills paid 95.8 per cent. of invoices within 10 days.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310536]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not own any of its office space. It is all leasehold.

The area of vacant office space on the BIS Core Estate is 800 square metres with a current passing rent of £88,000.

The area of occupied office space on the BIS Estate is 82,908 square metres with a current passing rent of £17,450,047, including VAT where applicable.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309870]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers' Private Offices do not retain this degree of detail and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost but other Ministers and I are very conscious of the disruption cancelling visits at short notice causes and therefore seek to avoid doing so, and usually only do so in order to fulfil parliamentary business.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310802]

Mr. McFadden: During the period 1 January to 31 December 2009, the quantity of food waste generated on the BIS Estate amounted to 6.6 tonnes. This information is recorded by our contracted catering supplier.

All food waste is collected and then used for the generation of renewable energy which is fed back into the national grid.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the most recent period for which figures are available. [310831]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Windsor (Adam Afriyie) on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 164W.

East of England Development Agency: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* pay, *(b)* pension and *(c)* contract term of the Chair of the East of England Development Agency will be with effect from 1 April 2010. [311929]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The EEDA Chair from 1 April 2010 will receive *(a)* remuneration of £81,718 for three days per week, *(b)* the option of receiving a pension under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme by analogy and *(c)* a contract term starting from 1 April 2010 to 13 December 2012.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many individuals' wages increased as a direct result of the most recent uprating of the national minimum wage. [310475]

Mr. McFadden: The latest estimates for the number of beneficiaries of the most recent uprating of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) are available from the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). Using this data, BIS estimate that 980,000 job holders stood to benefit as a result of the most recent uprating of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) in October 2009.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure all workers receive wages at a rate at least equivalent to the national minimum wage. [310833]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are committed to ensuring that those who are entitled to the national minimum wage (NMW) receive it. We have introduced a new, stronger, enforcement regime to deter non-compliance and since April 2009 HMRC have helped around 14,000 workers recoup over £3.5 million of wage arrears. We are also working to increase wider awareness of the NMW for workers and employers through publicity and guidance on the Business Link website.

The NMW is a key part of the Government's vulnerable worker strategy. Last year, the Government launched a £6 million, three-year information campaign to make sure that vulnerable workers are aware of their rights and of how to report abuses. As part of this, the Pay and Work Rights Helpline (0800 917 2368) simplifies and streamlines access to the workplace enforcement bodies, making it easier for vulnerable workers to report bad treatment at work.

Further details can be found in the Government's 2009 non-economic evidence to the Low Pay Commission at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53073.pdf.

Minimum Wage: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of those resident in Preston have been paid at the national minimum wage rate since its introduction. [311074]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings are not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes at this level in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

At the Government Office for the English Regions level, the lowest available, DTI previously estimated that the number of jobholders that stood to benefit from the April 1999 introduction of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) in the North West region was 140,000. In 2009 the corresponding BIS estimate for the number of jobholders affected by the uprating of the NMW in the North West region was 134,000.

Minimum Wage: South West

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in the South West who have been paid at the rate of the uprated minimum wage in the last 10 years. [310985]

Mr. McFadden: Estimates of the number of employees paid at exactly the National Minimum Wage (NMW) rate over time are not available at the Government Office Region level due to small sample sizes in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

However 2009 ASHE data can be used to estimate the number of employees paid at or below the NMW rate for the most recent year. Using this data, BIS estimate that 76,000 jobholders in the South West were paid at or below the level of the 2009 uprated NMW prior to its introduction.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department incurred on *(a)* publishing and *(b)* marketing its Parent Motivator Guide. [309755]

Mr. McFadden: The expenditure incurred in producing the Parent Motivators guide was £9,220. This includes £700 for design costs, £2,020 paid to the author and £6,500 for the development and marketing of the guide. The guide was published electronically and is available on the Directgov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/@en/@educ/documents/digitalasset/dg_183544.pdf

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what fee was paid to Denise Taylor for her work relating to the Parent Motivator Guide produced by his Department. [309756]

Mr. McFadden: Denise Taylor was paid £2,020 for her work on the Parent Motivators Guide.

Partnerships: Company Accounts

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons Companies House made the most recent revisions to its form for limited liability partnerships to change details of a member, LLP288c to LLCH01; and what information may be provided through the revised form which could not be provided before its introduction. [311421]

Ian Lucas: Limited liability partnership legislation was changed from 1 October 2009 in line with new legislation brought in for companies (The Companies Act 2006).

The amended legislation includes new requirements for companies and LLPs. On form LLCH01 company directors and LLP members are required to provide a service address and residential address, a county or state of usual residence and any former names which have been used in the course of business. There are also different requirements for corporate officer appointments such as their registered number and where they are registered. This means that forms 288c and LLP288c are no longer applicable. Companies House revised the forms to align with changes in the legislation.

Royal Mail: Privatisation

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* he and *(c)* his Department's officials have made an assessment of market conditions relevant to the part-privatisation of Royal Mail since 1 July 2009. [311642]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The Department has been continuously monitoring market conditions. Our assessment remains that current market conditions would not enable the Government to secure a partner for Royal Mail, through a minority share sale, on terms that would be value for money for the tax payer.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [311989]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 2000, the policies and actions of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and its predecessors) have focused on building a competitive economy and on delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. The implementation of BIS policy in Slough, has been taken forward primarily by SEEDA and GOSE, working in partnership with the local authority and other relevant bodies.

Examples of how BIS policies and actions have impacted on Slough include:

Levels of skills have significantly increased in Slough since 2000[1].

Performance at level 2 has increase from 62.6 per cent. to 67.1 per cent.

Performance at level 3 has increase from 41.2 per cent. to 44.5 per cent.

Performance at level 4 has increased from 23.9 per cent. to 26.4 per cent.

The stock of VAT registered businesses has increased from 3,090 businesses in 2000 to 3,645 businesses in 2007[2].

The proportion of business registrations (including VAT and PAYE) per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above has increased from 46.2 in 2002 to 69.3 in 2008[3].

The number of business creation has also increased from 435 new businesses registering for VAT and/or PAYE in 2002 to 655 in 2008[4].

The percentage of small businesses showing growth in employed has increased from 10.53 per cent. in 2003 to 15.18 per cent. in 2008[5].

[1] APS—Annual Population Survey data.

[2] Extracted from NOMIS, source: BERR—VAT registrations/deregistrations by industry.

[3] Data produced by BIS and available on the BIS website:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/national_indicators/index.htm.

[4] As above.

[5] As above.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in November and December 2009. [311201]

Mr. Michael Foster: The percentage of invoices from UK suppliers paid within 10 working days of receipt by the Department for International Development (DFID) was 97 per cent. in November and 96 per cent. in December.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in plans to co-locate his Department's offices overseas with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office offices in *(a)* Abuja, *(b)* Bridgetown, *(c)* Delhi, *(d)* Dhaka, *(e)* Kabul and *(f)* Jerusalem. [310744]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The progress made in plans to co-locate oversees offices of the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the locations requested is outlined in the following table. Co-location is the preferred option for both DFID and the FCO and each proposal is assessed on financial and non-financial elements with a focus on achieving best value for the Government.

Locations	
(a) Abuja	DFID decided to remain in the existing office on cost grounds. However, in order to provide flexibility, the design of the new High Commission is being taken forward to allow future co-location should circumstances change.
(b) Bridgetown	FCO put on hold proposals for a joint DFID/FCO building due to the expected project costs and other estate priorities.
(c) Delhi	DFID and FCO are proceeding with refurbishment of the current High Commission building to enable co-location. Advanced design work is currently underway.
(d) Dhaka	Design and Planning works are complete for building work to enable co-location.
(e) Kabul	DFID are co-located with the FCO in Kabul.
(f) Jerusalem	Design work on a joint DFID/FCO building is at an advanced stage. However, building work cannot start until land ownership is established for the site.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310807]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any estimates of the food waste arising from our departmental estate.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing on departmental networked computers. [310763]

Mr. Michael Foster: In line with best practice the Department for International Development blocks access to numerous external web sites which are known to present a potential security threat to DFID's computer network or are deemed to present an additional risk or contain unsuitable material.

Information related to blocked sites is restricted and cannot be released for security reasons.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 435W, on international development: mandatory exclusions, if he will publish a list of the organisations and individuals which are excluded from contract awards made by his Department because they have been convicted of fraudulent or corrupt activity. [310743]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not maintain a list of organisations or individuals excluded from contract awards, rather the Department makes appropriate checks in relation to each contact in line with the Public Sector and Utilities Procurement and EU Directives.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the results from his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the total cost of the survey was. [310768]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) will publish its October 2009 staff survey results on the DFID website in early March 2010. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

ORC International carried out the survey. Their services were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-civil service people survey. The people survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service.

The final cost of the 2009-10 people survey for DFID is expected to be approximately £50,000. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10, the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Non-governmental Organisations: Finance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will require non-governmental organisations in receipt of partnership funding from his Department to publish information on the projects on which such funding is spent. [310878]

Mr. Michael Foster: Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs) are provided to achieve organisational outcomes, agreed between the Department for International Development (DFID) and the relevant partner, as opposed to specific funding for individual projects. All PPA holders are required to produce an annual report of progress made against these agreed outcomes, which are published on the DFID website.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many armoured cars have been purchased with funds from his Department for the use of the UN Relief and Works Agency in Gaza since January 2008; what the total cost was to his Department; how many such vehicles have entered Gaza; how many are stored awaiting permission to enter Gaza; and what the cost to his Department has been to date of such vehicle storage prior to their delivery to Gaza. [311197]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department of International Development (DFID) donated three armoured cars to the UN following the conflict in Gaza. These arrived in Israel during January 2009. The UN Relief and Works Agency took responsibility for the clearance of the vehicles into Israel. Two of these vehicles entered Gaza in June 2009. The third car has been transferred, with our agreement, to the World Food programme, which expects to transfer it into Gaza in the next month.

The cost of the vehicles was approximately £320,000 and DFID has also spent £101,000 on freight and handling costs. The UN is liaising with the Israeli authorities on storage costs. DFID has not paid any storage costs to date.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311261]

Joan Ruddock: 90.7 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009.

Departmental Internet

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure his Department incurred on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in 2008-09; and what budget has been allocated for each such activity in 2009-10. [311633]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1045-6W.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* citizens' juries and *(b)* summits have been hosted by his Department since June 2007; on what date each such event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310239]

Joan Ruddock: None.

Eaga

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding is available to Eaga under the Warm Front scheme to provide emergency assistance to households in which a boiler or central heating system has failed in extreme weather conditions. [311646]

Mr. Kidney: Warm Front is not designed to provide an emergency service and therefore no separate funding is provided in this respect. Everyone that applies to Warm Front does so because they are on a low income and/or have a disability. That means that everyone that applies is dealt with as swiftly and efficiently as possible and will be regularly contacted by the scheme manager, Eaga, advising them of the progress of their application. However, an immediate need for heating is met by arranging for temporary heaters to help customers until a more permanent heating installation can be completed.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what targets there are in respect of the time taken by Eaga to complete boiler or central heating installations in circumstances in which a boiler or central heating system has been classified as unfit for use; and what factors Eaga takes into account, with particular reference to the needs of elderly and other vulnerable groups, in setting timetables for the completion of such work. [311647]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 18 January 2010]*: Once an installer has been allocated to carry out recommended heating work, eaga is contractually obliged to ensure that this is completed within 120 working days.

The scheme is extremely popular, particularly during winter. Everyone that applies to Warm Front does so because they are on a low income and/or have a disability. That means that everyone that applies is dealt with as swiftly and efficiently as we can.

Where possible, however, an immediate need for heating is met by arranging for temporary heaters to help customers until a more permanent heating installation can be completed.

Warm Front Scheme: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households applied for grants under the Warm Front scheme in Lewes constituency in each year since the inception of the scheme. [311170]

Mr. Kidney: The following table indicates the total number of applications to the Warm Front Scheme received in Lewes each year to date.

	Referrals received
2000-01	377
2001-02	438
2002-03	269
2003-04	466
2004-05	447
2005-06	279
2006-07	449
2007-08	624
2008-09	746
2009-10[1]	568

[1] To 12 January 2010

Warm Front Scheme: South Tyneside

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have received a grant under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Jarrow constituency and *(b)* South Tyneside in each year since the inception of the scheme. [310663]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the number of households who have received assistance from the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Jarrow constituency and *(b)* South Tyneside in each year since the inception of the scheme.

		Number
Assisted households	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*
2000-01	408	774
2001-02	970	2,042

		Number
Assisted households	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*
2002-03	408	1,169
2003-04	538	1,104
2004-05	386	730
2005-06	236	625
2006-07	366	779
2007-08	617	1,154
2008-09	413	825
2009-10 (to 31 December 2009)	433	593
Total	4,775	9,795

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many adopted children of each age at the time of approval for adoption waited *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* more than 66 months, *(c)* more than 72 months and *(d)* more than 80 months to be adopted following the decision that adoption was in their best interest in each year since 2001. [311638]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The number of looked-after-children adopted in the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2009 and who had waited *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* more than 66 months, *(c)* more than 72 months and *(d)* more than 80 months to be adopted following the local authority's decision that the child should be adopted, by the child's age at the time of that decision, is shown in the tables, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries.

The figures shown for the time between the local authority's decision that the child should be adopted and the date of the adoption are cumulative. For example a child that is included in the 'Over 72 months' category has also been included in the 'Over 66 months' category.

Once a child is placed for adoption with approved prospective adopters it is for the prospective adopters to decide when to apply to the court for an adoption order. The child has to live with the prospective adopters for 10 weeks preceding the application. This period is included in the time provided in the tables.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childcare places there are for children under the age of eight years in Nottingham North constituency. [308492]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of registered child care places is not available below local authority level.

Children: Nutrition

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to promote healthy options for children when choosing their lunch at school. [311161]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In order to help promote healthy options for children when choosing their lunch at school the Government have commissioned the School Food Trust to undertake a wide range of activity.

The trust supports schools and their catering providers in interpreting and implementing the regulations for school food and has produced guidance and resources concerning the marketing of healthy food.

In addition, to encourage children to eat healthily, there are a range of activities to help children and parents who want to choose healthier school lunches. These include the "Million Meals" campaign, the "School FEAST" scheme, the "Really Good School Dinner" initiative, MADGe—an on-line tool to allow the development of marketing material—and the national programme, "Let's Get Cooking".

The School Food Trust also provides advice and support to schools which ranges from the procurement and marketing of food, the efficient use of kitchen and dining spaces, the encouragement of stay-on-site policies within schools, as well as a guide to the whole school approach. It also works closely with Healthy School's leads in schools and local authorities; healthy eating is one of the four key themes of the joint DCSF/DH Healthy School Programme.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the Parent Know How service in each year since it was established. [308972]

Dawn Primarolo: The Parent Know How programme was launched in 2008. The programme supports a suite of family services delivered through telephone helplines, online digital services and print media. The services are delivered by a range of third and private sector organisations. Since its launch they have together supported 2.5 million families.

The following information sets out how much has been spent on Parent Know How services. It also includes £4,100,000 for local authorities to purchase new database systems as part of the Parent Know How. The figures include capital and revenue funding and are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

2008-09—£15,506,000

2009-10—£15,147,000

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310809]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: No figures are available for the quantity of food waste generated by the caterers for the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the results from his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of conducting the survey was. [311465]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) will be publishing its October 2009 staff survey results on their website in February. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier for the (DCSF) staff survey in October 2009 was ORC International who were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-Civil Service people survey. The people survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the 2009/10 People Survey for (DCSF) was £27,000. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009/10 the Civil Service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008/09.

Health Education: Nutrition

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to promote healthy eating by children. [311160]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Healthy eating is an important part of good physical and mental health and achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. Ensuring that children, young people and their families have the information, advice and support they need to make healthier choices in what they eat is a long-standing priority for the Government. Our approach is about not just giving advice, but providing healthy food in schools and other settings. We have made significant progress in the past 12 months to build on the work to date.

Statutory nutritional standards for lunches provided in schools came into force for maintained primary schools in September 2008 and for maintained secondary and special schools in September 2009: this means that lunches provided in all maintained schools must now meet these standards. Food served in other parts of the school day or from vending machines must also meet statutory food-based standards. The proportion of children having school lunches has started to rise and parents can be confident that their children are eating a healthy, nutritious meal at school. The School Food Trust, as the Department's delivery partner, is working with schools and local authorities to promote and encourage take up of school meals, and we continue to ensure that pupils aged four to six receive a piece of fruit or vegetable every day through the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Cookery classes are already part of the curriculum in primary schools and pupils in key stage 3 can now take up the offer of the Licence to Cook programme: all pupils now get the chance to learn to cook healthy meals. The highly successful cookbook Real Meals—Simple cooking that tastes great, produced by this Department and made available to all year 7 pupils, was updated and re-launched in December 2009. This new edition contained a wider range of recipes, and accompanied by the Real Meals—cold food cookbook, also produced by the DCSF, which provides recipes for picnics and days out. All recipes were produced by the British Nutrition Foundation and meet the required nutrient standards. In addition, 99 per cent. of schools are now participating in the Healthy Schools Programme and healthy eating is a core criterion for achieving healthy school status.

We are also helping parents gain the skills they need to prepare and cook healthy meals at home. In January 2010 we began piloting the "train-the-trainer programme" Cook4Life 'Cooking with Families' in the North West and South West regions. This pilot will give Sure Start Children's Centre staff the skills to enable them to run cookery courses in their centres which will help parents learn food preparation and cookery skills for use at home. We have also funded the Health, Exercise and Nutrition for the Really Young (HENRY) programme to disseminate good practice in Sure Start Children's Centres on healthy eating and exercise, which is being well received.

In January 2009 we launched the social marketing campaign Change4Life to encourage us all to eat well, move more and live longer. Over 415,000 families have joined the campaign and receive information and advice tailored to their needs. Change4Life is primarily aimed at families with children aged between five and 11. To support families with younger children, in October 2009 we published a Change4Life Early Years toolkit for practitioners working with younger children. Start4Life, launched in January 2010, provides authoritative and up to date advice to pregnant women and parents of babies and children up to two years old on breastfeeding, introducing infants to solid food and active play so that babies can have the best start in life.

We have also revised the Birth to Five, the NHS guide to becoming a parent and finding practical help and support on various issues, including diet and nutrition for children, which is given to all mothers. There is also an online version which features interactive tools and videos for new parents.

Health visitors and other community nurses and practitioners play a vital role in helping to ensure that children and young people benefit from good nutrition. Through the Healthy Child Programme for the first five years of life health visitors and others promote exclusive breastfeeding, the introduction to solid foods and the development of good eating habits, such as the importance of eating fruit and vegetables as promoted through the Five a Day campaign from infancy onwards. In October 2009 new guidance for the important review which takes place after a child's second birthday as part of the programme was published. Also in October 2009 the Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families and Health launched the Healthy Child Programme for five to 19 year olds to stakeholders. This programme also emphasises the importance of healthy eating.

We are also helping families make healthier choices in the food they buy in shops and restaurants through the work the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) are taking forward with industry to implement the Healthy Food Code of Good Practice as set out in Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On. In addition, we are continuing to work with the Association of Convenience Stores to roll out a project across England to promote fruit and vegetables in stores in deprived areas, using the Change4Life brand.

Playgrounds: Standards

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent guidance his Department has provided to local authorities on the area to be provided per child aged *(a)* five to 11, *(b)* 11 to 16 and *(c)* over 16 years at educational establishments for outdoor play. [309478]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have not issued guidance to local authorities on the area to be provided per child for outdoor play. The Government's planning policy on open space, which includes the provision of land for outdoor play, is contained in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation'. This states that local planning authorities should set their own local standards for the provision of different types of open space, taking account of factors such as the demographic profile and extent of existing buildings, residential and commercial development in their area.

The Government published 'Aiming High for Young People: Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities', in 2007. Backed by over £900 million of investment, it sets out plans to help all young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to take part in enjoyable and purposeful activities in their free time. As part of the strategy, myplace is delivering £270 million of Government capital investment in world class youth facilities as part of a 10-year commitment to deliver new and improved youth facilities in every constituency by 2018. Aiming high supports local authorities in their duty to secure access to positive activities for all young people.

An extensive consultation, 'Fair Play', was undertaken by the DCSF in April 2008 with children, young people and parents on play facilities. The national Play Strategy, launched in December 2008, set out the Government's commitment to invest £235 million to deliver 3,500 new or refurbished outdoor play areas, plus 30 staffed adventure playgrounds, by 2011. This funding is allocated to every top tier local authority in England and intended to support play for all ages, but with a particular focus on eight to 13s. All local authorities are required to develop a strong understanding of local levels of need for outdoor play facilities as part of their decision-making on how this capital investment will be spent, and are supported in this process by the Government's national delivery partner, Play England. The views of local children, families and residents are a vital part of these considerations.

Non statutory guidance; 'Embedding the Play Strategy', will be issued to local authorities in February 2010 to help children's trusts and local strategic partnerships plan their local play offers and improvement programmes. This guidance recommends ways for local partners to determine how much and what kind of outdoor play provision they might need.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's definition is of a disadvantaged pupil; who decides whether a pupil should be categorised as disadvantaged; and how many pupils were classified as disadvantaged in Shrewsbury and Atcham in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [306918]

Dawn Primarolo: For the purposes of tracking the educational progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils, and for monitoring our progress towards narrowing attainment gaps, we use eligibility for free school meals as a proxy for disadvantage.

Other measures of disadvantage, such as the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, are used for other purposes.

In 2007, 1,210 pupils were registered as eligible for free school meals (and therefore classified as disadvantaged) in Shrewsbury and Atcham. In 2008, 1,230 pupils were eligible and in 2009 the figure was 1,180.

School Meals

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors are required to be taken into account in deciding on school lunch menus in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [311162]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: All local-authority maintained primary, secondary and special schools must meet both the food-based and nutrient-based standards for school lunches. Interim food-based standards for school lunch came into effect from September 2006. These were replaced by final food and nutrient-based standards in September 2008 (primary schools) and September 2009 (secondary schools). There are sample compliant menus on the School Food Trust website.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of children under the age of 16 years who *(a)* had lunches provided by and *(b)* took packed lunches to (i) primary and (ii) secondary school in (A) England, (B) Leicester and (C) the East Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available. [311163]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not count the number of pupils that have a school meal but we do know the percentage of children that take a school meal from information collected by the School Food Trust.

Take-up figures as percentages of pupils are as follows:

	Primary schools	*Secondary schools*
England	43.9	36.0
Leicester City LA	38.4	32.9
East Midlands GOR	36.4	35.7

These figures are the latest figures and are for 2008/09. The 2009/10 survey is due to start at the end of March.

The Department does not collect information on how many of the remaining children have a packed lunch brought from home.

Schools: Collective Worship

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Wiltshire education authority have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted exemption from holding religious assemblies. [310918]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Sure Start Programme: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Sure Start centres and *(b)* early excellence centres have been established in Preston since 1997. [311237]

Dawn Primarolo: Sure Start children's centres were introduced from 2003-04, all former Early Excellence centres are now Sure Start children's centres. Prior to this there was one Early Excellence centre created in Preston local authority area, based at Stoneygate nursery school.

There are 28 designated Sure Start children's centres in Preston local authority area, offering services to approximately 19,200 children under five and their families. Of these, seven are situated in the Preston constituency, reaching 5,174 children. There are no further centres planned for Preston.

Teachers: Manpower

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* school support staff were in employment in schools in England in each year since 1997; and what the pupil: teacher ratio was in each such year. [310560]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested for 1997, 2001 to 2009 is published in tables 1 and 17 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)' published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

DCSF: School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures), January 2009 (Revised)

The information requested for 1998 to 2000 is published in tables 1 and 17 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios) January 2007 (Revised)' published on 27 September 2007. The SFR is available at the following web link:

DCSF: School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)

Youth Task Force

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff are *(a)* employed by and *(b)* assigned to the Youth Taskforce. [311228]

Dawn Primarolo: There are 18 staff employed by the Youth Taskforce. In addition there are three staff assigned to the Youth Taskforce on secondment.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of the air travel industry on the application of the higher rate of air passenger duty to premium economy seats. [311287]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Bradford and Bingley

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the minutes of each meeting which led to the decision to nationalise Bradford and Bingley. [311947]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Child Tax Credit: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Preston were in receipt of child tax credit on the latest date for which information is available. [311023]

Mr. Timms: The latest information on the number of recipient families of child tax credit, by local authority and parliamentary constituency, is provided in the HM Revenue and Customs snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical Analyses December 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Council Tax: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency uses data from its council tax banding support tool in appeals against council tax banding. [311498]

Ian Pearson: Yes. The council tax banding support tool is used to help with all cases where an existing council tax band is to be reviewed, including appeals.

Fuels: Prices

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average forecourt price was of standard *(a)* BS-EN-590 diesel and *(b)* 95 RON unleaded petrol in July 2008. [311042]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: According to statistics from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the average UK pump prices for July 2008 were 132.76 pence per litre for diesel, and 118.76 pence per litre for petrol. Weekly average UK pump prices are available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/prices/prices.aspx

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's letter of 29 October 2009 to the Financial Secretary on Asghar Khan, Treasury PO Ref: 3/11525/2009. [310937]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Non-Domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the amount of revenue from petrol retail outlets which the new business rate will generate in 2010-11. [311048]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

No estimates of the revenue from petrol stations' business rates or that of any other category of hereditament have been made. Business rates bills contain not only transitional relief but all other reliefs, some determined at the billing authorities' discretion. It is therefore, not possible to estimate the bill of a hereditament, and, consequently, that of any category of hereditaments.

For the purpose of modelling the 2010 Transitional Relief scheme, the Notional Chargeable Amount (NCA) was calculated. The NCA for a given year is the product of the rateable value and that year's small business multiplier. The NCA is then compared to the previous year's reference value increased by the caps. The minimum of these two values was used as a proxy for the bill after transition but before all other reliefs. Details on the methodology and assumptions used can be found on page 49 of the 'The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England' consultation document. These include an assumption of zero inflation, which does not reflect the latest information available. There is also an adjustment for appeals.

A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and the 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government. Over 1 million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases, which means that in 2010-11 no petrol station will see its rates liability rise as a result of revaluation by more than 3.5 per cent. for small properties and 11 per cent. for large properties.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much business rate revenue was generated from petrol retail outlets in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [311050]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

Origin Marking: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 768W, on imports: Israel, whether the issuing authority is different from the authority providing the original designation of origin. [311127]

Mr. Timms: There are a number of regional Customs offices in Israel which are authorised to authenticate preference certificates. When a claim to preference is verified, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) write to the Tax Authority in the Israeli Ministry of Finance. That authority contains the Israeli Customs Department and is responsible for collating, checking and responding to verification inquiries. Therefore, while the office responsible for verifying a particular preference certificate may be different to the one which issued it, the issuing and verifying authorities are the same.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 768W, on imports: Israel, in how many cases there has been doubt over the place of production and verification has been requested from the issuing authority in Israel. [311195]

Mr. Timms: In the period 2007-2009, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) asked the authorities in Israel to verify a total of 65 preference certificates. Two of the certificates related to irregularities identified as a result of HMRC's physical examination of fresh produce at the time of importation. The remaining certificates concerned potential problems identified as a result of HMRC's routine examination of documents accompanying claims to preference under the EU-Israel Agreement. To date there have been no cases identified where doubt has existed over the place of production of imported cosmetics. HMRC continue to closely monitor such imports.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 768W, on imports: Israel, what recent reports HM Revenue and Customs have received on checks by the European Commission that the Israeli authorities record the actual place of production rather than a head office on the proof of origin. [311196]

Mr. Timms: As part of fact finding missions, an objective of which was to gain on the ground information about the operation of the 2005 Technical arrangement in which the Israeli's are required to insert the place of production on proofs of preferential origin, officials from the European Commission's Origin Unit visited Palestine and Israel in the spring and autumn of 2009 respectively. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has not received any reports of the findings of those visits. Neither has it received any notifications from the Commission of products being wrongly labelled.

Rodents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment Natural England's Wildlife Management and Licensing Service has made of changes in levels of the rodent population in the last three years. [311481]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessment has been made as this is not one of Natural England's functions.

Tax Allowances: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in Preston which have received 100 per cent. tax exemption in respect of the purchase of computer and internet-related equipment. [311024]

Mr. Timms: It is not possible to identify tax reliefs at the level of detail requested. However, an estimated 95 per cent. of UK businesses who invest in plant or machinery (including in computers and internet-related equipment) will have their expenditure wholly relieved from tax by the Annual Investment Allowance (AIA), which provides 100 per cent. relief for such investment up to an amount of £50,000 each year.

Tax Allowances: Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the capital allowances for railway assets will be decreased to 10 per cent. in January 2011; and what assessment has been made of the effect on the rail industry of this decision. [311176]

Mr. Timms: No change is being made to legislation. From the outset the exemption for the rail industry from the long life assets regime for capital allowances has been time-limited. Thus, expenditure incurred after 1 January 2011 on railway assets which have a life of greater than 25 years will be subject to the standard long life assets' rate of 10 per cent.

We would not expect the expiry of the exemption, known about since 1997, to have a significant impact on the rail industry, where long-term operating costs are factored into the long-term investment decisions that are typical in this sector.

Taxation: Unleaded Petrol

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of taxation was on standard 95 RON unleaded petrol in July 2008. [311043]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The main fuel duty rate in July 2008 was 50.35 pence per litre. Historical duty rates are available on HM Revenue and Customs' UK Trade Info website at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Unemployment: EU Countries

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he has taken of reports of the level of joblessness in the eurozone in November 2009 in his most recent assessment of the EU's economic performance; and if he will make a statement. [311271]

Mr. Timms: The forecast for euro-area GDP growth, published in Table A1 on page 138 of the 2009 pre-Budget report, reflects the Treasury's assessment of all relevant economic developments.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's eLearning guide for its geographical information system. [311497]

Ian Pearson: The VOA is in the process of developing an e-Learning programme for its geographical information system. The planned date for completion of the programme is June 2010, after which a copy will be deposited in the Library.

Welfare Tax Credits: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants in Hemel Hempstead constituency there were in each year since the scheme began; and how many such claimants have been *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid. [311027]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of families with tax credit awards, including information on the annual number and value of tax credits overpaid and underpaid by parliamentary constituency, from 2003-04 to 2007-08, is available in the HM Revenue and Customs' publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have had their tax credit payments suspended due to overpayment in *(a)* each county in England and Wales and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency in each year since 2005. [311026]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost due to the work required to extract it from HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 20 January 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many nightclubs in England and Wales have had alcohol licences revoked in circumstances where the persistent sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age has been demonstrated in the last 12 months. [312087]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin collects the number of licences revoked, but does not indicate why or the type of premises involved. Licences may be revoked following a review by the licensing authority for a number of reasons, including persistent selling of alcohol to children. However, the persistent sale of alcohol to children is a specific criminal offence under section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003.

Where a premises licence holder admits the offence and accepts a closure notice issued under section 169A of the 2003 Act, the licence may be suspended for up to 48 hours. The number of such suspensions under section 169A between April 2008 and March 2009 was 54, based on replies from 97 per cent. of licensing authorities. However, where the holder of a premises licence is convicted by a court of an offence under section 147A (in respect of the sale or supply of alcohol, following an offence of persistently selling to underage children) to which the licence relates, the court may order that the licence, so far as it authorises the sale by retail of alcohol, be suspended for a period not exceeding three months.

The number of suspensions ordered by the courts between April 2008 and March 2009 was 12, based on responses from 98 per cent. of licensing authorities.

Arts Council of England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking in respect of the public perception of Arts Council England. [309619]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England is responsible for maintaining the reputation and knowledge of the organisation.

The Department is confident that Arts Council England's public perception is good and is continuing to improve. Recent research found that while 47 per cent. of members of the public who have heard of the Arts Council held no strong view of ACE, of the remaining 53 per cent.; 36 per cent. held a favourable opinion and 8 per cent. held an unfavourable opinion[1].

Among the arts sector, 74 per cent. responded favourably and 10 per cent. unfavourably.

A further breakdown of this information is detailed in the tables:

[1] Arts Council's Stakeholder Focus research programme 2009-10.

Attitudes towards the Arts Council among the general public

Question	*Response*	*Percentage*
How favourably or unfavourably do you regard the Arts Council, bearing in mind we are interested in your overall impressions?	Very favourably	4
	Mainly favourably	32
	Neither favourably nor unfavourably	47
	Mainly unfavourably	7
	Very unfavourably	1
	Don't know/No opinion	9

Base:
695 (all those who have heard of the Arts Council)
Source:
Arts Council's Stakeholder Focus research programme 2009-10

Attitudes towards the Arts Council among the arts sector and other partners

Question	*Response*	*Percentage*
How favourably or unfavourably do you regard the Arts Council, bearing in mind we are interested in your overall impressions?	Very favourably	14
	Mainly favourably	60
	Neither favourably nor unfavourably	15
	Mainly unfavourably	9
	Very unfavourably	1
	Don't know/No opinion	[1]—

[1] Arts Council's Stakeholder Focus research programme 2009-10.
Base:
896
Source:
Arts Council's Stakeholder Focus research programme 2009-10

Casinos: Gambling Machines

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of any link between the number of machines allowed in casinos and the extent of problem gambling. [311951]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not made a specific assessment of the link between the number of machines allowed in casinos and the extent of problem gambling. However, the Gambling Commission has undertaken research into what can be done to understand the impact of high stake, high prize gaming machines on problem gambling in general, the results of which were reported to me in July 2009. Among other things, this work commented on the availability and accessibility of gaming machines in gambling venues across Britain.

Subsequently, the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board's initial recommendations and priorities for research, education and treatment into problem gambling published on 14 October 2009, has highlighted that early priority should be given to developing a programme of work around high stake, high prize gaming machines building on the initial work undertaken by the Gambling Commission.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has plans to increase the number of machines allowed in casinos. [311955]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has no specific plans at present in relation to numbers of gaming machines allowed in casinos.

A number of representations have been made by the casino industry with regards to the ongoing review of category B gaming machines, which are being given due consideration.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance the Gambling Commission has produced on the practice of adult gaming centres without a casino licence branding themselves as casinos. [311835]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission has advised that it has not published guidance on the practice of adult gaming centres without a casino licence branding themselves as casinos.

Cricket: Facilities

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage the development of indoor cricket. [312017]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that over the period 2009-13 Sport England will invest a total £38,003,357 in the English Cricket Board (ECB) for their Whole Sport Plan. A key part of this funding agreement is for the ECB to increase participation in the sport.

One aspect of this will be to increase participation in indoor cricket, with indoor cricket playing a key role in the ECB's wider club network intervention. In addition to this the ECB is currently working with the organisation Indoor Cricket England to look at the ways they might be able to work together to increase access and participation in the indoor version of the game.

Gambling Commission: Public Appointments

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will undertake an investigation into *(a)* the appropriateness of the appointment of the Chief Executive of the Gambling Commission to the Commission's Board of Commissioners and *(b)* the effect on levels of transparency and accountability of the separation of both roles. [311640]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have no current plans to review this appointment.

The current chief executive of the Gambling Commission was appointed as an ex-officio Commissioner of the Gambling Commission by the then Secretary of State in October 2005. We continue to believe that this is a positive arrangement which is consistent with arrangements in place for similar regulatory bodies, and we believe that there is no detrimental impact on levels of transparency and accountability as a result.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions the Gambling Commission has had with regulators outside the European Economic Area and the white list of countries permitted to advertise gambling services in the UK on the effectiveness of the regulation of operators providing gambling services to customers in the UK. [311641]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of the Gambling Commission.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Gambling Commission to write direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many violent incidents were recorded at properties operated by ClearSprings Ltd. under the Bail and Accommodation Support Service in each of the last three years. [310960]

Maria Eagle: The number of violent incidents recorded at properties managed by ClearSprings for the bail accommodation and support service in the last three years is;

	Number of violent incidents reported
2007	1
2008	6
2009	10

These data include one incident of aggravated burglary by a member of the public against a ClearSprings property in 2009.

Land Registry

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Land Registry has spent on the refurbishment of its head office in Lincoln's Inn Fields in each of the last three financial years. [310712]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry has refurbished its head office in Lincoln's Inn Fields to address health and safety risks, including legionella, to address the risk of electrical and heating systems failure, and to bring the building, which was built in 1913, up to date. The project included not only internal redecoration and remodelling, but full replacement of the heating system, replacement of the hot and cold water services and installation of a dedicated electrical sub-station (in the light of advice from consultants following a number of blackouts in the building). The cost of refurbishment in the last three financial years was:

	Cost of refurbishment (£)
2006-07	1,478,276
2007-08	3,164,533
2008-09	2,846,398

The total for the last three financial years is £7,489,207. These costs are off-set by a consequential increase in value of the building of £5.25 million based on a Valuation Office report on 15 December 2008 (compared with the previous valuation on 8 January 2008).

Powers of Entry

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many warrants magistrates have issued for the courts to enter premises by force under section 78 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [311480]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by manually interrogating court records.

Prison Accommodation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 546-7W, on prison accommodation, how many cells are not included in the certified normal accommodation of the prison estate for *(a)* operational reasons relating to cell (i) heating, (ii) lighting, (iii) ventilation and (iv) size and *(b)* other reasons relating to cell maintenance. [311241]

Maria Eagle: As at the end of November 2009 and based on information from central records, about 500 places in the prison estate's baseline were not included in in-use certified normal accommodation because of centrally programmed maintenance projects. Cell certification records do not systematically identify the nature of each maintenance project.

These figures have been drawn from central administrative/recording systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Mothers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mother and baby units for female prisoners there are in England and Wales; and what the capacity of each such unit is for *(a)* female children and *(b)* babies. [311242]

Maria Eagle: There are seven mother and baby units (MBUs) in England providing an overall capacity of 75 places. Each unit can normally accommodate one set of twins. However, the number of places available at any one time can fluctuate for operational reasons, and currently stands at 69.

Establishment	*MBU Capacity*
Askham Grange	10
Bronzefield	12
Eastwood Park	12
Holloway	13
New Hall	3
Peterborough	12
Styal	7
Total	69

For young women under 18 years of age there is a MBU at Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre that has a capacity of three places. One set of twins can be accommodated on the unit.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bars

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 825-6W, on bars, when staff assigned to duties in Bellamy's Bar, Bellamy's Club Room and the Astor Suite were informed of the proposed closure of these facilities; and whether the House of Commons has consulted associations representing those staff on the matter. [311891]

Nick Harvey: The director of catering and retail services met staff employed in the Bellamy's catering facilities on Wednesday 16 December 2009 to announce the Commission's decision on Monday 14 December to convert Bellamy's Bar, the Club Room and the Astor Suite into a children's nursery.

Staff trade union representatives were present at the staff meeting at the invitation of the director. Formal consultation between management and trade union representatives will be commenced as soon as an outline timetable for the closure of the affected facilities has been drafted.

House of Commons: Taxation

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost to the public purse was of the residence on the parliamentary estate occupied by *(a)* the Serjeant at Arms and *(b)* Clerk of the House in the last financial year; and what arrangements are in place for the payment of tax on those residences. [311417]

Nick Harvey: The identifiable direct costs in 2008-09 of the official residences for the Clerk of the House and Serjeant at Arms were £11,989 and £8,464 respectively. This includes maintenance costs and utilities. Both individuals pay towards utility costs. The House pays an income tax and national insurance charge on these residences.

Members: Allowances

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 959W, on Members: allowances, how many days work Sir Thomas Legg undertook on his review; whether he was required to declare other remunerated positions which he may have held during the course of the review; and if he will make a statement. [311741]

Nick Harvey: The information requested on number of days worked is commercially confidential. The standard contractual terms on which Sir Thomas was engaged required him to notify the House Administration of any directorships, conflicting interests or any interests in contracts or other transactions which may be relevant.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure the west midlands obtains a legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [309660]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy of London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to maximise the sporting, commercial, cultural and other benefits of the 2012 Games.

So far 193 tenders for services relating to the 2012 Games have been won by companies based in the west midlands via CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service which enables businesses to compete for contract opportunities linked to London 2012, and facilitates access to focused business support.

Over £6 million has been secured to support an extensive programme of events and cultural activity across the west midlands in the run up to 2012. There are over 845 schools registered on 'Get Set', LOCOG's domestic education programme for London 2012.

The west midlands has also identified opportunities to host a range of pre-Games training camps and has confirmed that both the American and Jamaican athletics teams will be based in Birmingham in the run-up to the Games.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Batteries: Waste Disposal

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the recycling of waste industrial and automotive batteries. [310832]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply

The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No.890) transpose certain provisions of the Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators Directive (2066/66/EC), including measures that relate to the recycling of waste industrial and automotive batteries. The Regulations place responsibility on producers of such batteries, from 1 January 2010, to ensure that they are recycled when becoming waste, but also allow other licensed operators to continue to carry out this function if they so choose.

Waste industrial and automotive batteries may only be recycled by approved battery treatment operators, or exported for recycling by approved battery exporters. The Regulations also prohibit the disposal of waste industrial and automotive batteries by landfilling or incineration.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310819]

[illegible] Norris: DEFRA endeavours to send as much of [illegible]odegradable waste as possible for environmentally-friendly treatment (generally, composting) rather than to landfill, although we do not keep a separate record of the component of this that is made up of food. The total amount of biodegradable waste (food and garden waste) sent for treatment in this way, reported as part of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate reporting process is presented in the following table.

	Waste composted (tonnes)
2006-07	19.02
2007-08	23.27
2008-09	38.61

The increase year on year is largely due to the introduction of the food waste recycling scheme across the London Estate. This has diverted food waste from landfill and increased the volume of waste sent for composting.

Additional food waste, which has not been quantified, may have entered the residual waste stream and been sent to landfill.

A case study highlighting DEFRA's food waste composting programme was published by the OGC in July 2009 and can be found on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/case_studies_sustainable_procurement_and_operations_case_studies.asp

Waste Management

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is his policy to identify waste streams that should not be disposed of *(a)* in landfill and *(b)* by incineration. [311182]

Dan Norris: The Government consider that landfill should be the last resort for most wastes where more sustainable options are available but recognise that landfill may continue to have a role in the disposal of certain hazardous wastes and as a means of restoring exhausted mineral workings.

Some types of waste are already banned from landfill under EU legislation. The EU Landfill Directive bans the landfilling of liquids, wastes which are explosive, corrosive, oxidising, highly flammable or flammable, hospital and clinical wastes and whole or shredded used tyres.

The Landfill Directive further limits the waste that may be disposed of at individual landfill sites by classifying them into one of three types, inert, non-hazardous or hazardous.

The Government are assessing the case for introducing further restrictions on the landfilling of biodegradable and recyclable wastes. DEFRA and the devolved Administrations have commissioned further research on the environmental, economic and practical impacts of introducing further restrictions. We aim to consult on the options for introducing further restrictions early this year.

In addition, the EU Batteries Directive introduced a ban on disposing of automotive and industrial batteries both via landfill and incineration.

In line with the waste hierarchy set out in the Government's Waste Strategy 2007 and the Revised Waste Framework Directive, it is preferable to prevent, reuse and recycle waste. However, recovering energy from residual waste via a combination of complimentary processes, including incineration, is preferable in both environmental and economic terms to landfill. The waste must be treated in a facility compliant with the Waste Incineration Directive. This applies stringent regulations to emissions from incineration to protect health and the environment. Landfill sites and incinerators are subject to the requirement for an environmental permit, the terms and conditions of which may further restrict the types and quantities of waste that may be handled.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Environment Agency on amendments to Section 1.1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, with particular reference to recognition of the end-of-waste concept. [311867]

Dan Norris: In recent months DEFRA officials have discussed the possible amendment of Section 1.1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 with Environment Agency officials. This was in the context of the development by the Environment Agency of draft end-of-waste protocols which, if finalised, might justify further consideration of amendment.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Offensive Weapons and Drugs: Schools

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in Northern Ireland were found to be in illegal possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* drugs on school premises in 2008-09. [312317]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the chief constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Terrorism

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of the number of terrorist sleeper cells in Northern Ireland. [311954]

Mr. Woodward: It has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment upon matters of national security.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311263]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office paid 98.8 per cent. of invoices from suppliers within 10 days of receipt in December 2009.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for such activities in 2009-10. [309907]

Ann McKechin: We do not hold the information in the format requested.

Figures are only available for each year as a total amount spent on web maintenance.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	840
2007-08	2,990
2008-09	[1]19,292
2009-10	[2]3,500

[1] The increase in 2008-09 can be split down into the following areas:

Part 1—website rebuild by CIVIC—£12,880

a complete redesign, redevelopment

a new hosting package for the website

a full content management system which allows staff in-house to manage the site content.

Part 2—whitespace—£3,431

Addition of a blog

Hosting

Website update

Part 3—Arbuthnott website—£1,198.50

Website, CMS development and hosting

Part 4—OAG contact forms—£1,782.50

[2] The anticipated spend for 2009-10 is £3,500 for hosting arrangements.

Note:

The costs represents the hosting, updating and development of the site.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much it received from his Department in each such year. [310157]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) project is intended to support the CNPA's development as an effective counter narcotics law enforcement institution through the provision of training, mentoring and equipment.

The project received UK funding of £601,732 in 2006-07, £1,333,000 in 2007-08, £593,629 in 2008-09 and we expect to contribute £300,000 in 2009-10. We assess that the project has had a positive impact in increasing the CNPA's operational capacity and effectiveness. In Project evaluations in 2007-08 and 2008-09 showed that, given the CNPA improvements achieved, continued expenditure at the respective level each year would not have had the same impact as earlier on in the project.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Criminal Justice Task Force project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much it received from his Department in each such year. [310158]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The aim of the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) project is to support the development of an Afghan-owned system for dealing with serious narcotics cases in Afghanistan that deters involvement in the industry through the handling and prosecution of a sustained number of influential individuals. The CJTF received £1.63 million of funding in 2006-07, £2,142,180 in 2007-08, £1,375,532 in 2008-09, and we expect to contribute £1,275,600 in 2009-10.

The CJTF project required significant investment in one-off start-up costs in financial year 2007-08. Costs were lower in subsequent years as Afghan capacity increased, allowing Afghans to take on more of the roles and better value for money. This ongoing project is meeting its programme goals and is contributing to UK strategic objectives. It has seen a year on year increase in quality convictions, and last year successfully prosecuted its first high-level trafficker, who was sentenced to 20 years, imprisonment.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Support to Afghan National Police project is; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason its funding was reduced in 2009-10; and how much it has received from his Department in that year to date. [310163]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Afghan National Police project is intended to support the development of a disciplined body of people with professional policing skills in order to win the confidence of the people of Afghanistan. The funding pays for the recruitment and deployment of credible experienced officers to strategically important mentoring posts in Afghanistan. Securing these key posts will enhance our ability to influence and drive police reform.

This project is part of the UK's strategy of supporting the development of the Afghan National Police, and to increase its capacity and effectiveness in law enforcement. This is consistent with our broader strategy of ultimately enabling the International Community to transfer responsibility for security to the Government of Afghanistan. In the project's first year (2007-08) we provided £687,061. We provided £699,723 in 2008-09, and we currently estimate that we will spend approximately £1,160,000 in 2009-10.

We assess that this ongoing project is meeting its programme goals of developing a better trained and more accountable ANP, that is able to carry out basic policing functions, and is contributing to UK strategic objectives in Afghanistan.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics Communication project was; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason his Department ceased to fund the programme in 2006-07; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [310166]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Ministry of Counter Narcotics Communication Project (MCNCP) supported capacity building in the Afghan Ministry for Counter Narcotics to engage with the media. Specifically, the project enabled the Ministry for Counter Narcotics to oversee a national public awareness campaign, broadcasting on Kabul and provincial radio stations.

MCNCP supported the delivery of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Departmental Strategic Objective 6, to Prevent and Resolve Conflict.

MCNCP received £820,000 in Financial Year 2006-07. Capacity building support for the Afghan Ministry for Counter Narcotics is now conducted under another project with a wider scope. The MCNCP was regularly reviewed and met its programme goals.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what the purpose of the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan Mobile Detection Teams project was; for what reason his Department decided to fund the project; how much it received from his Department in its first year of operation; for what reason his Department ceased to fund the programme in 2008-09; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [310170]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan Mobile Detection Teams project was intended to provide training, mentoring and equipment for the creation of Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) mobile drugs detection teams. The aim of the project was to increase the Afghan Government's drug interdiction capacity. The project received £7.8 million in its first year (2005-06).

The project delivered by enabling the CNPA to achieve some substantial narcotics seizures. In 2007 and 2008 the teams seized drugs with a UK street value of more than £100 million, including half a ton of heroin. In 2008-09 the UK's priorities shifted to focussing on interdicting trafficking networks further up the supply chain and at targets with stronger links to the insurgency. Funding for the project was discontinued in 2008-09 after it was assessed that it would not have delivered sufficiently against the new priority.

Africa: Travel Information

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provided travel advice to the organisers of the *(a)* Plymouth-Dakar Challenge and *(b)* Adventurists Africa Rally prior to those events. [311876]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials from the Counter Terrorism Department met organisers of the Plymouth-Dakar Challenge and the Adventurists Africa Rally on 9 December 2009. Both teams agreed to end their rallies in Morocco after discussing the travel advice, which is available on the FCO website, and their planned routes which passed through areas to which we advise against all travel.

China: Falun Gong

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Chinese government on its policy towards practitioners of Falun Gong. [311426]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have serious concerns about the mistreatment of Falun Gong adherents and regularly raise this issue with the Chinese Government. We last raised our concerns about Falun Gong practitioners at the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue on 12-13 January 2009. We asked how many re-education through labour detainees there were and what proportion were Falun Gong. The Chinese responded saying that reforms of the system of re-education through labour were taking place. We will raise this issue again at the next round of our human rights dialogue. We are yet to confirm a date for this but we are pressing for it to be in early 2010.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations has he made to the government of Iran regarding the number of Baha'is in prison or awaiting trial; whether he has discussed with that government his policy on the death penalty; and if he will make a statement; [311620]

(2) what recent reports he has received on the number of Baha'is imprisoned in Iran. [311621]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As of 13 January 2010, according to the Baha'i International Community some 50 Baha'is were believed to be in detention in Iran. At least 236 cases were still ongoing with the Iranian authorities—including individuals in prison, released awaiting trial or free pending appeal.

We have made clear to the Iranian authorities on several occasions our concerns at the large number of Baha'is in detention, and the conditions in which they are detained. We have expressed explicit concern at the charges of 'espionage' and "corruption on earth" levelled against the seven Baha'i leaders imprisoned for over a year without trial. Alongside EU partners we expressed our serious concern about the start of their trial on 12 January 2010, as the charges against them appear to be motivated by their belonging to a minority faith.

We also make regular representations concerning the application of the death penalty in Iran, including its use against juvenile offenders. Our position on the death penalty is clear: we oppose it in all its forms. Many of the most basic minimum standards surrounding the use of capital punishment are absent. Executions are often carried out in public and sentences we are concerned that many handed down as the result of an unfair trial. Alongside EU partners we have reiterated our firm and continued opposition to capital punishment, and urged the Iranian authorities to abolish the death penalty completely and, in the meantime, to establish a moratorium on executions as urged by United Nations General Assembly resolutions 62/149 and 63/168.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role he expects the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to play in negotiations with Iran over its nuclear policy. [311293]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU High Representative has played a key role on the Iran nuclear dossier since 2003, both as the lead interlocutor with the Iranians and in leading EU discussions. I expect Baroness Ashton and her office to continue playing this role in negotiations, and hope that Iran decides to take the opportunity to seek productive and sensible dialogue on their nuclear policy.

Mongolia: Capital Punishment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Mongolian counterpart on the recent announcement of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in that country; and what assistance he can provide to encourage the government of Mongolia to abolish the death penalty. [311889]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As I said in my statement of 14 January 2010, I welcome President Elbegdorj's announcement to establish a moratorium and the decision to move to full abolition in 2011.

We will maintain in close contact with the Mongolian Government over the abolition of the death penalty and are ready to assist if requested.

North Korea: Financial Services

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the alleged use of European banks to launder money by *(a)* the President of North Korea and *(b)* other senior members of the North Korean regime; what recent discussions he has had with his (i) European and (ii) US counterparts on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [310426]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not comment on matters of intelligence. However, the Government play a leading role in international efforts against money laundering, notably through its membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The risk of money laundering posed by certain jurisdictions, and the global response to this, is the subject of ongoing work in the FATF.

In 2009 the UK implemented further sanctions against North Korea under UN Security Council Resolution 1874, placing restrictions on financial institutions providing services to North Korea and requiring enhanced vigilance by member states. While aimed at reducing the threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, such measures also serve to strengthen international anti-money laundering controls.

Pakistan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Pakistan. [311407]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is committed to help Pakistan achieve its vision of becoming a stable, economically and socially developed democracy and meet its poverty reduction targets. The Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy announced by the Prime Minister on 29 April 2009 in the House of Commons set out objectives for UK policy towards Pakistan. They focus on counter-terrorism, regional stability, governance, counter-proliferation and economic development.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the proportion of essential supplies which have been able to enter Gaza through Israeli-controlled checkpoints; and if he will make a statement. [311489]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK continues to be concerned by the current humanitarian situation in Gaza. According to a recent UN report, the weekly total of truckloads of goods entering Gaza through Israeli checkpoints for the week of 10-16 January 2010 was 534. This constitutes less than 23 per cent. of the average number of truckloads entering Gaza per week pre-2007. We are unable to establish the total number of truckloads actually attempting to enter Gaza, but it is clear that imported truckloads remain below needs. We continue to press the Israeli authorities to lessen restrictions on access into Gaza and allow the legitimate passage of humanitarian aid, reconstruction materials, trade goods, and people.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the policy of the Government that linking access for aid and reconstruction materials to Hamas's refusal to renounce violence constitutes collective punishment of the people of Gaza within the meaning of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and if he will make a statement. [311586]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have serious concerns about the Israeli restrictions on Gaza and the impact they have on the lives of Gazans. Although there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, given the significant control that Israel has over Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters, Israel retains obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as an occupying power. The Fourth Geneva Convention is clear that an occupying power must co-operate in allowing the passage and distribution of relief consignments. The restrictions currently imposed on the passage of relief supplies are, as we see it, a disproportionate response to the security threat.

The extent of Israeli restrictions, and the threat to Israel from militants in Gaza, varies constantly. Rather than focus on whether the restrictions at any given time amount to collective punishment, we have consistently pressed the Israeli Government to comply with their obligations under international law and allow passage of relief supplies.

Palestinians: Journalism

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of restrictions on access into Gaza via Israel for representatives of the international media; and if he will make a statement. [311404]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel advice clearly states that we advise against all travel to Gaza. We are aware that a number of British journalists and aid workers visit Gaza, but we have not facilitated their entry via Israel.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Government Equalities Office

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by primary legislation sponsored by the Government Equalities Office since 1 May 2008. [312102]

Michael Jabez Foster: No primary legislation sponsored by the Government Equalities Office has been enacted since 1 May 2008.

Ministers of Religion: Females

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether an assessment has been made of the effects of the employment provisions of the Equality Bill on the Roman Catholic Church's prohibition of women priests. [311806]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Equality Bill will not alter the scope of the current law which allows an exception in the case of employment for the purposes of an organised religion which includes Ministers of Religion. Therefore the Roman Catholic Church will still be able to require priests to be male.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Solicitor-General who chose the subject of the lecture by the Attorney-General at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, on 5 January 2010. [311937]

The Solicitor-General: The subject for the lecture was chosen by the Attorney-General.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Birds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 9,120 other birds used in scientific procedures in 2008 were *(a)* passerines (songbirds) and *(b)* taken from the wild; and whether his Department plans to provide details of species used in future such statistical releases. [311020]

Meg Hillier: Passerines of a wide range of species are thought to account for a significant proportion of the 9,120 'other birds' based on the information received as part of the data collection, however exact numbers are not available.

Information is not collected as part of the data collection on the source of such animals which are not Schedule 2 listed, however it is believed that few if any were taken from the wild.

The large majority of these 9,120 animals were used in studies where the primary field of research was indicated as 'Zoology' (4,837 animals) or as 'Ecology and environmental studies other than toxicology/safety evaluation' (3,043 animals).

There are no plans at present to provide details of the species used within the 'Other birds' category. However the data collection and publication is kept under review to meet user needs and legislative requirements, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and is subject to assessment by the UK Statistics Authority under the Statistics and Registration Act 2007.

Crime: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* thefts from cars, *(c)* assault and *(d)* offences involving the carrying of an offensive weapon there were in Gloucestershire police force area in each year since 1997. [310983]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There have been some changes to recording crime practices over this period which mean that the data for these offences codes cannot be compared for every year between 1997 and 2008-09.

Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way crime is recorded. The effect of extending the coverage and changing the counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase total recorded crime nationally by 14 per cent.

It is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further artificial increase of 10 per cent. in total recorded crime in its first year.

For these reasons data between 1997 and 2008-09 are not directly comparable.

Additionally, the Home Office does not hold data for the offence categories of assault and offences involving the carrying of an offensive weapon for 1997.

The data for 1997 are shown in table A. Those for 1998-99 to 2001-02 are shown in table B and those for 2002-03 to 2008-09 are shown in table C.

Table A: Selected offences recorded by Gloucestershire police, 1997

Offence	*Number of offences*
Burglary	11,559
Theft from cars	10,493
Assault	—
Offences involving the carrying of an offensive weapon	—

Table B: Selected offences recorded by Gloucestershire police, 1998-99 to 2001-02

	Number of offences			
Offences	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Burglary	10,111	9,308	7,809	8,468
Theft from cars	8,563	7,713	6,571	6,312
Assault	754	1,171	1,721	1,515
Offences involving the carrying of an offensive weapon	173	186	150	183

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table C: Selected offences recorded by Gloucestershire police, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Number of offences						
Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Burglary	8,694	9,072	7,142	6,260	6,413	5,604	5,823
Theft from cars	5,763	6,143	4,810	3,992	3,812	3,515	3,696
Assault	3,058	2,321	1,950	1,940	2,682	2,593	2,697
Offences involving the carrying of an offensive weapon	222	2[illegible]8	297	293	306	232	277

Note:
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Drugs: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on programmes to tackle the misuse of drugs in Preston in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2008-09. [310999]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office made a grant of £35,000 to Preston in 2008-09 towards a Positive Futures project. The Positive Futures programme was launched in 2001. It aims to prevent young people from becoming involved in substance misuse, crime and antisocial behaviour by engaging them into sport and arts based activities, and to support them access education, training, employment and volunteering opportunities.

Other sources of central funding are available to Preston through Lancashire county council for allocation across the partnership's areas as they see fit in order to deliver local, regional and national strategies. For example, the Home Office made a contribution of £1,136,278 to Lancashire county council towards the delivery of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) in 2008-09. DIP was introduced in 2003 to direct offenders into an assessment for their drug use, and as a route into effective treatment. This funding was allocated by the Lancashire Drug Action Team to commission services required across Lancashire areas, including Preston.

Funding data for 1997-98 are not readily available.

Incitement: Publications

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many publications have been held to breach laws against incitement since 1997. [311459]

Mr. Hanson: Information relating to the number of individual publications which have been held to breach terrorism legislation is not held by the Home Office.

The terrorism statistics that are published by the Home Office focus on persons only. The current edition of the terrorism statistics bulletin "Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: arrest, outcome, and stops & searches, Great Britain, 2008-09" is available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010 to Question 307245, which stakeholders were involved in the meeting in *(a)* October 2008 and *(b)* January 2009; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [310269]

Meg Hillier: Since the ISA was responsible for producing the guidance notes and for the consultation meetings in respect of that guidance, I have asked the chief executive of the ISA to respond to your question.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been provided for applicants for vetting by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [310865]

Meg Hillier: Guidance has not yet been issued to applicants to the new Vetting and Barring Scheme as applications to the scheme will not commence prior to July 2010. Relevant guidance will be provided in due course.

Police: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding his Department provided to the Police Negotiating Board in each of the last five years; how much such funding it expects to provide in 2010-11; for what purposes such funding was allocated in each such year; under what statutory powers such funding was provided; what the membership is of the Police Negotiating Board; by whom that board is appointed; when each member of that board was appointed; what discussions he has had with the Police Negotiating Board since January 2009; and if he will make a statement; [303913]

(2) what the salary is of the Chairman of the Police Negotiating Board; whether the Chairman of that board may receive a staff bonus; and if he will make a statement. [303914]

Mr. Hanson: Funding for the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) for the last five years is given in table 1; a decision has not been made on funding for 2010-11. As set out under section 61 (4)(a) and (b) of the Police Act 1996 the funding is provided to pay the fees of the Board's Chair and Deputy Chair and to defray any expenses incurred by Board members.

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the PNB are appointed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister after consultation with Scottish Ministers and the current Chair and Deputy Chair were appointed on 11 February 2009 and 12 February 2009 respectively. The Chair is currently paid a daily fee of £429. The position does not attract a bonus. The PNB membership is given in table 2.

I have had no discussions with the PNB since January 2009. However, Home Office officials meet with the PNB on a regular basis.

Table 1: Home Office annual allocation to the PNB

	£
2005-06	425,493.59
2006-07	479,870.58
2007-08	452,361.29
2008-09	452,359.78
2009-10	385,827.75

Table 2: PNB membership

Constituent body	*Total*
Official side (Full PNB)	
The Secretaries of State (Home Secretary, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Scottish Ministers)	[1]3
The Association of Police Authorities of England and Wales (including one member representing the Metropolitan Police Authority)	11
The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities	3
The Northern Ireland Policing Board	1
Association of Chief Police Officers (to include the Metropolitan Police Commissioner) and Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland	4
Total	22

Table 2:[1]*PNB membership*

Constituent body	*Total*
Staff side (Full PNB)	
The Chief Police Officers' Staff Association	2
The Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales	2
The Police Federation of England and Wales	7
The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland	1
The Association of Scottish Police Superintendents	1
The Scottish Police Federation	4
The Superintendents' Association of Northern Ireland	1
The Police Federation for Northern Ireland	2
All Police Staff Associations acting jointly for the appointment of Staff Side Chairman and Secretary	2
Total	22

[1] If either the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's representative or the Scottish Ministers' representative is unable to attend a meeting the Home Secretary may send an additional representative.

Thames Valley Police: Finance

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what capital funding has been allocated to Thames Valley Police in each year since 2005. [311249]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Capital Funding allocated to Thames Valley

£ million

	Grant	*SCE(R)*	*Air Support*	*Total*
2005-06	4.31	2.43	0.02	6.76
2006-07	3.83	2.43	0.43	7.49
2007-08	3.04	2.43	0.13	7.19
2008-09	4.62	2.43	0.58	7.64
2009-10	4.62	2.43	0.58	7.64
2010-11[1]	4.62	2.43	[2] —	7.05

[1] Indicative

[2] To be announced

Unpaid Fines: Local Government

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the contribution of Lord Brett, 7 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 907, on the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 Order 2009, what guidance is being given to local authorities on the use of new powers to collect unpaid *(a)* parking and *(b)* congestion charge fines. [311554]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As Lord Brett said in a written ministerial statement on 14 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WS211, the Government will be drafting a circular to be issued to all accredited financial investigators to clarify how the statutory powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 should be used.

Vetting: Councillors

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department's planned *(a)* comprehensive generic and *(b)* sector specific guidance on the Vetting and Barring scheme will make reference to (i) parish and (ii) town councillors. [310982]

Meg Hillier: It is intended that sector guidance on the vetting and barring scheme will include information relating to parish and town councillors.

TRANSPORT

Air Traffic Control

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to reduce the Government stake in UK Air Traffic Control; and if he will make a statement. [312064]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 19 January 2010]:* On 8 December the Government published the Operational Efficiency Programme: Asset Portfolio.

The portfolio includes a section on NATS which notes that in light of the impending expiry of the restrictions on the transfer of shares for NATS, it is appropriate for Government to engage with other shareholders who are likely to consider the shareholding options available to them.

No decision has been made by Government with regard to reducing its shareholding. Any options considered would be required to best meet the needs of the Company and its workforce, as well as shareholders.

Bus Services: Concessions

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to his Department was of the provision of free off-peak bus travel to pensioners in the last 12 months. [312012]

Mr. Khan: Following the extension of the statutory bus concession in April 2008, to provide free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England to older and eligible disabled people, the Department for Transport has provided additional special grant funding to local authorities of £212 million in 2008-09, and £217 million in 2009-10.

This is in addition to the funding that the Department for Communities and Local Government provides each year for concessionary travel through the formula grant process. Local authorities spent £990 million on concessionary travel (including their own discretionary enhancements) in 2008-09.

Departmental Correspondence

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his Department's policy is on the retention of *(a)* electronic and *(b)* paper correspondence sent and received by Ministers and officials in his Department; how long such electronic communication is retained on IT hardware; whether such files are (i) archived and (ii) backed up; and at what point such files are deleted. [312096]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport's policy on the retention of electronic and paper correspondence follows the records management standards set by The National Archives.

Specifically, the Department's records management guidance states that all electronic documents that form part of the official record keeping system should be placed in Approved File Plans (AFPs). AFP files must have an agreed retention period, approved by the departmental records officer. Only business critical papers that cannot be saved electronically in AFPs or records marked with a security or privacy classification should be stored on registered paper files.

The guidance also states that information that does not need to be kept as part of the Department's formal record keeping system should be disposed of as soon as possible in a manner appropriate to its contents.

A back-up of the Department's electronic communications servers is produced each day. These back-ups are kept for three months.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for each such category of expenditure in 2009-10. [310759]

Chris Mole: Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing websites operated over the last three years and their operating costs. Costs provided are total external costs and do not include internal staff costs. It is not possible to provide categorised costs as requested without incurring disproportionate costs. Costs provided for 2009-10 are anticipated operating costs.

Where annual operating costs are not available this is due to a number of reasons; either the site has not existed for the past three years; the costs are part of a much larger contract and cannot be itemised; or the costs cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department for Transport measures website costs in line with the guidance issued by the Central Office of Information, 'Measuring website costs (TG128)', starting in this financial year 2009-10, and will collate data at year end.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will list, and quantify, those items of expenditure which since April 2009 have been reallocated to be off balance sheet transactions, pursuant to advice received from HM Treasury. [311178]

Chris Mole: Since April 2009, there have been no balances or transactions that were recorded on-balance sheet in the consolidated accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 that have been reallocated off-balance sheet for the purposes of the Department for Transport's consolidated resource accounts, pursuant to advice received from HM Treasury.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [311515]

Chris Mole: Training is provided to Ministers on a range of issues including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the ministerial code.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date and by what means the decision was taken to hold the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation over a 14-week period; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* minutes of meetings and *(b)* correspondence in which the duration of the consultation was discussed. [312097]

Paul Clark: The Government's Code of Practice on Written Consultation recommends 12 weeks as the standard minimum period for consultation, but notes this should take account of circumstances, including whether it spans a substantial holiday period. The 14 week period for the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation in November 2007 reflected that guidance and was confirmed by the then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) and proposed in her letter to Cabinet colleagues on 1 October 2007 seeking clearance to the consultation. Clearance was given on 12 November 2007.

London-Glasgow Railway Line

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what role the Scottish Executive and Transport Scotland have in deciding on the provision of direct London to Glasgow rail services. [309030]

Chris Mole: The level of direct train services between London and Glasgow is specified by the Secretary of State for Transport, taking into account non-binding advice provided by Scottish Ministers.

M1: East Midlands

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the road widening works north of junction 25 on the M1 motorway to be completed and the temporary speed restriction removed; and if he will make a statement. [311732]

Chris Mole: The M1 junctions 25 to 28 widening works are programmed to complete in October 2010.

The temporary speed restriction will be removed on completion of the works.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people were on site and working on the roadworks taking place on the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 28 on *(a)* 4, *(b)* 5, *(c)* 6 and *(d)* 7 January 2010; and if he will take steps to expedite the completion of these works. [311733]

Chris Mole: The numbers of operatives working on the roadworks for the M1 junctions 25 to 28 project on the 4, 5, 6 and 7 January 2010 were as follows:

(a) 4 January—198 of which 65 were visible on work site;

(b) 5 January—149 of which 11 were visible on work site;

(c) 6 January—157 of which 11 were visible on work site;

(d) 7 January—158 of which 13 were visible on work site.

On the days mentioned above, the freezing weather conditions restricted safe access and exit within the work area. Much of the work was weather dependent and could not be done during freezing temperatures.

The project is making good progress and the Highways Agency expect to finish the work as planned in October 2010.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what cameras are scheduled to be installed on the M1 motorway in Nottinghamshire in the vicinity of junction 26; for what purpose such cameras will be used; on what date he expects such cameras to become operational; and if he will make a statement. [311734]

Chris Mole: Consideration is currently being given to proposals for introducing variable mandatory speed limits on the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 28.

A consultation exercise would be undertaken before a decision would be made to introduce the variable mandatory speed limits.

I expect to make an announcement on this in the near future.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310845]

Mr. Khan: Since 1999 the Government has published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Civil Service Management Code' respectively.

Railways: Capital Allowances

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer prior to his decision to reduce capital allowances for railway assets; and what assessment he has made of the effect of this decision on the railway industry. [311190]

Chris Mole: The exemption for the rail industry from the long life assets regime for capital allowances has been in place since 1997 and was always time-limited. Thus, expenditure incurred after 1 January 2011 on railway assets which have a life of greater than 25 years will be subject to the normal long life assets' rate. The expiry of the exemption is not expected to have a significant effect on the rail industry, where long-term operating costs are factored into the long-term investment decisions that are typical in this sector.

Railways: Timetables

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will require train operating companies to take further steps to make readily available to the public accurate information on the definition of *(a)* off-peak and *(b)* variations to off-peak times, with particular reference to super off-peak times. [311471]

Chris Mole: Train operators publicise their ticket restrictions on their websites. Most also take information feeds relating to fares from National Rail Enquiries who I understand are exploring possible solutions to providing this information. The train operators' ticket office staff have access to systems that make these restrictions clear and sell the appropriate tickets to passengers for use on trains.

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will require National Rail Enquiries to take further steps to make readily available on its website information on the definition of *(a)* off-peak and *(b)* variations to off-peak times, with particular reference to super off-peak times. [311472]

Chris Mole: National Rail Enquiries (NRE) is working to improve information services and recently released a revamped website. Enhancing information on off peak and super off peak validity is an agreed goal. However, work will be required to ensure precise ticket time restrictions are accurately selected to meet every passenger inquiry, and then be displayed in an understandable form.

Roads: Accidents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of drivers involved in road traffic accidents did not have *(a)* insurance, *(b)* a valid MOT certificate and *(c)* a driver's licence in each of the last three years. [341726]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not collected centrally.

In 2003 the Department for Transport published a research report on unlicensed driving which included an estimate for the number of personal injury road accidents that involved a driver found guilty of driving without a licence. The report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/researchintounlicensedreport.pdf

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the amount of salt held by local highway authorities in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [311451]

Mr. Khan: According to local authority salt audit returns at 10 am on 14 January, both Coventry and the West Midlands region estimate that they have between six and seven days of salt stocks without replenishment, assuming the economies requested by the Secretary of State in his statement of 12 January are implemented.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure effective gritting of roads in the West Midlands. [311452]

Mr. Khan: Following close monitoring of the situation, the Department for Transport convened on 6 January, a joint working body (the Salt Cell) with representatives from central Government, local government and the devolved administrations to provide an agreed approach to road salt prioritisation. Data is now being regularly gathered on UK local authority and Highways Agency salt stocks and predicted use based on weather forecasts. With this regular flow of information, the Salt Cell currently meets twice weekly to decide what advice should be given to salt suppliers regarding the prioritisation of salt deliveries to local highways authorities and the Highways Agency. It therefore ensures the salt suppliers have the best possible advice from the information available about where salt is needed most. The Department has also re-circulated County Surveyors Society advice which included consideration about where and when to use grit only rather that salt.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the damage caused to roads and highways in the West Midlands as a result of cold weather; and what his estimate is of the cost of repairing such damage. [311453]

Mr. Khan: It will be for each local highway authority to assess the damage to its network resulting from the severe weather, and to estimate the costs of repair.

The Department for Transport will consider any requests for financial assistance that local authorities may make, in line with its established criteria; and it will provide engineering consultancy support to local authorities formulating bids. It will be for each bidding authority to demonstrate that the damage is exceptional.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on responsibility for clearing pavements which are unsafe as a consequence of adverse weather conditions. [311587]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* Local highway authorities have a duty, under s41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the roads in their charge, including footways. This duty specifically includes

> "a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice".

The Department for Transport has not issued guidance on responsibility for clearing footways in adverse weather conditions, but it does endorse the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice, "Well-maintained Highways" (available from the House Libraries, or from the following website which contains guidance on winter service:

www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* forces and *(b)* equipment the UK has contributed to the security arrangements for the Kajiki dam in Afghanistan; what the expected duration of UK involvement in this operation is; and on what date the UK will hand over responsibility to other coalition forces. [311227]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A detachment from 3rd Battalion, the Rifles which is part of Battle Group (North) is currently based at Kajaki, along with elements of the Royal Engineers and other support groups. I am unable to give specific details of the number of forces and type of equipment contributed by the UK to this area as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

We anticipate that ISAF commanders will wish to review the disposition of forces across Helmand to make best use of the significant increase in ISAF and Afghan troops in the province. No decisions have yet been taken.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 50 most expensive substitute *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living accommodation properties rented out in Scotland were in the last 12 months. [311895]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) and substitute service single accommodation (SSSA) are only ever used as a last resort in cases where service accommodation either does not exist or is not available. SSSA properties may accommodate more than one entitled Service person of the same gender and of an equivalent rank. As part of the value for money programme that I chair, the entitlements of all MOD employees are being considered.

The 50 most expensive SSSA properties rented during 2009 were as follows:

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*
Glasgow	1,300.00
Glasgow	1,200.00
Glasgow	1,140.00
Glasgow	1,133.05
Glasgow	1,080.00
Glasgow	1,080.00
Glasgow	1,080.00
Glasgow	1,075.00
Glasgow	1,050.00
Glasgow	1,050.00
Glasgow	1,050.00
Glasgow	1,041.00
Glasgow	1,035.00
Inverness	1,030.00
Edinburgh	1,025.00
Edinburgh	1,025.00
Edinburgh	1,025.00
Edinburgh	1,025.00
Glasgow	1,020.00

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*
Glasgow	1,002.70
Glasgow	1,000.00
Glasgow	1,000.00
Inverness	1,000.00
Edinburgh	1,000.00
Glasgow	995.00
Edinburgh	995.00
Helensburgh	985.00
Glasgow	975.00
Glasgow	975.00
Glasgow	975.00
Glasgow	975.00
Aberdeen	975.00
Edinburgh	975.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Glasgow	950.00
Inverness	950.00
Edinburgh	950.00

The Department has only rented 46 SSFA properties in Scotland during 2009. Details are as follows:

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*
Glasgow	1,754.55
Stirling	1,725.00
Edinburgh	1,610.00
Danestone	1,550.00
Glasgow	1,525.00
Glasgow	1,500.00
Ellon	1,500.00
Aboyne	1,400.00
Arbroath	1,380.65
Dunblane	1,350.00
Stirling	1,250.00
Callander	1,250.00
Glasgow	1,200.00
Stranraer	1,200.00
Glasgow	1,200.00
Shetland	1,150.00
Stirling	1,125.00
Troon	1,075.00
Montrose	1,050.00
Stirling	1,020.00
Glasgow	995.00
Dollar	995.00
Troon	975.00
Peebles	963.85
Ellon	950.00
Stirling	950.00
Arbroath	910.90
Stirling	895.00
Glasgow	875.00
Ayr	875.00
Stirling	860.00
Glasgow	850.00
Stirling	820.00
Dollar	81720
Port Glasgow	813.75
Aberdeen	800.00
Alexandria	790.00
Kirkcudbright	775.00
Bridge of Weir	775.00
Alloa	770.00
Stirling	725.00
Glasgow	701.35
Eyemouth	700.00
Galashiels	675.00
Stirling	675.00
Galashiels	650.00

Departmental Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last three years. [300834]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has incurred expenditure on contracts with private hire taxi companies as follows:

				£
	Gosport	*RAF Innsworth*	*Bath*	*British Forces Cyprus*
2008-09	1,000	13,000	—	331,000
2007-08	—	—	23,000	216,000
2006-07	—	—	35,000	289,000

These contracts provide essential cover where official vehicles are not available for road journeys.

The costs for British forces Cyprus reflect the need to make increased use of contracted taxis following significant efficiency savings in MOD transport in 2005-06 resulting in net transport savings of £66,000 in 2005-06, £54,000 in 2006-07, £135,000 in 2007-08 and £29,000 in 2008-09. Further rationalisation of the provision of transport in Cyprus will lead to savings in the cost of contracted taxis from 2009-10.

Staff are instructed to use the most efficient and economic means of travel available to them.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what expenditure his Department has incurred against each such contract in each of the last five years. [301552]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has incurred expenditure on contracts with private hire taxi companies as follows:

£

	Gosport	RAF Innsworth	Bath	British Forces Cyprus
2008-09	1,000	13,000	—	331,000
2007-08	—	—	23,000	216,000
2006-07	—	—	35,000	289,000
2005-06	—	—	43,000	269,000
2004-05	—	—	39,000	165,000

These contracts provide essential cover where official vehicles are not available for road journeys.

The costs for British forces Cyprus reflect the need to make increased use of contracted taxis following significant efficiency savings in MOD transport in 2005-06 resulting in net transport savings of £66,000 in 2005-06, £54,000 in 2006-07, £135,000 in 2007-08 and £29,000 in 2008-09. Further rationalisation of the provision of transport in Cyprus will lead to savings in the cost of contracted taxis from 2009-10.

Staff are instructed to use the most efficient and economic means of travel available to them.

HMS Sheffield

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the letter of 7 January 2006 to the hon. Member for North East Hampshire, whether the comprehensive review of the board of inquiry report into the sinking of HMS Sheffield has been completed. [310995]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces announced on 2 November 2006 and 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23WS and 1943W, the BOI report was published through the MOD's Freedom of Information Publication scheme in November 2006, and other related documentation, including many of the annexes to the report, in August 2007. These documents are available at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme

UK Defence Academy: Admissions

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many students from Estonia have attended the UK Defence Academy at Shrivenham in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [311354]

Bill Rammell: In the last five years five students from Estonia have attended courses run by the Defence Academy of the UK.

The Estonian students attendance on the Academy's courses provides them with an insight into military operational planning and the interrelationship with UK and international foreign policy. The courses also enable students from a wide range of international backgrounds to debate and develop an understanding of issues relating to management, leadership, ethics and justification of military intervention at national, joint and coalition levels.

The Defence Academy has also enhanced their relationship with the Baltic-Defence College (BDC) located in Estonia. The Dean of one of the Academy's academic providers and the BDC Dean are currently discussing the possibility of an academic faculty exchange programme. The Academy has also provided BDC with an electronic learning package and are currently discussing the further development of an electronic learning capability.

Watan Risk Management: Contracts

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department *(a)* has and *(b)* has had contracts with Watan Risk Management in Afghanistan. [311424]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department does not have and has not had contracts with Watan Risk Management in Afghanistan.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer Question 301552, on taxis, tabled on 19 November 2009. [311007]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* I replied to the hon. Member today.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Chesterfield constituency claimed attendance allowance in each of the last five years. [310935]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Attendance allowance cases in payment for the Chesterfield parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year.

	Total
May 2005	3,550
May 2006	3,600
May 2007	3,640
May 2008	3,560
May 2009	3,500

Notes:

1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.

2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Attendance Allowance: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Lewes constituency claimed attendance allowance in each of the last five years. [311167]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is the following table.

Attendance allowance cases in payment for the Lewes parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year

	Total
May 2005	2,470
May 2006	2,580
May 2007	2,630
May 2008	2,650
May 2009	2,830

Notes:
1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in her Department received bonus payments in 2008-09; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [300567]

Jim Knight: There are two pay-related employee reward schemes operating in the Department for Work and Pensions. They comprise end of year non-consolidated performance pay and in-year special awards.

End of Year Non-Consolidated Performance Pay

DWP employees below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual non-consolidated performance payment if they attain a "Top", "Higher" or "Majority" rating under the annual performance and development system. The actual payment awarded is determined by the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service, end of year non-consolidated performance pay is determined by the relevant departmental pay committee, in line with recommendations by the independent senior salaries review body. The total payments made for 2008-09 were as follows:

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Proportion of total workforce (percentage)*	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Average bonus amount per head (£)*
2008-09	107,726	94	23.32	216.48

The largest single payment, for a member of the SCS, was £15,000.

Special Awards:

Individuals may be awarded a special award either as cash or retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year to recognise exceptional achievements beyond what would normally be expected.

The total number of awards made was as follows (a small number of individuals may have received more than 1 cash or voucher payment during the year in question):

Cash payments:

Financial year	*Total number of cash payments issued*	*Total Paid (£ million)*	*Average payment per head (£)*
2008-09	14,612	3.04	£208

The largest single payment for a special award was £8,000.

Voucher Payments:

Financial year	*Total number of vouchers issued*	*Total cost (£ million)*	*Average value (£)*
2008-09	47,121	2.02	Between 25.00 and 50.00

Disability Living Allowance: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Stroud constituency have claimed disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [310945]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance cases in payment for the Stroud parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year.

	Total
May 2005	2,990
May 2006	3,080
May 2007	3,220
May 2008	3,380
May 2009	3,550

Notes:
1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

EU Law

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations her Department has brought forward in this Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law. [304181]

Jonathan Shaw: Central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers have only been maintained by the statutory instruments registrar since 2001. A record has been maintained since that time of statutory instruments made under powers in the European Communities Act 1972, but no record has been maintained of statutory instruments made under other legislation in order to meet obligations arising from EU law. It would be disproportionately costly to seek to find out now what statutory instruments have been made under such other legislation. There are no central records maintained of "other regulations". Since 2001 my department has made 39 statutory instruments (including one for which the Privy Council Office was technically responsible) under powers contained in the European Communities Act 1972. A list of those instruments is set out in the following table

	SI Number	*SI Title*	*Authority*	*Secondary authority (where applicable)*
2009	2009/1906	Occupational Pension Schemes (Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009) Regulations	DWP	—
2009	2009/515	Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations	DWP	—
2009	2009/693	Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments and Revocations) Regulations	DWP	—
2009	2009/716	Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations	DWP	—
2008	2008/2108	Export and Import of Dangerous Chemicals Regulations	DWP	—
2008	2008/2337	Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2008	2008/3008	Race Relations Act 1976 (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2008	2008/736	Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations	DWP	—
2008	2008/963	Sex Discrimination (Amendment of Legislation) Regulations	DWP	—
2007	2007/1398	Transfer of State Pensions and Benefits Regulations	DWP	—
2007	2007/293	Biocidal Products (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2007	2007/3014	Occupational Pension Schemes (EEA States) Regulations	DWP	—
2007	2007/813	Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations	DWP	—
2007	2007/814	Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations	DWP	—
2006	2006/1733	Occupational Pension Schemes (Winding up Procedure Requirement) Regulations	DWP	—
2006	2006/2408	Employment Equality (Age) (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2006	2006/2739	Control of Asbestos Regulations	DWP	—
2006	2006/2931	Employment Equality (Age) (Amendment No.2) Regulations	DWP	—
2006	2006/336	Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations	DWP	—
2006	2006/438	Management of Health and Safety at Work (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2006	2006/657	Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) (Amendment Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/1088	Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/1923	Occupational Pension Schemes (Equal Treatment) (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/2451	Biocidal Products (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/2466	Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/2571	Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/3379	Occupational Pension Schemes (Internal Controls) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/3380	Occupational Pension Schemes (Regulatory Own Funds) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/676	Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations	DWP	—
2005	2005/928	Export and Import of Dangerous Chemicals Regulations	DWP	—
2004	2004/456	Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations	DWP	—
2003	2003/1673	Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2003	2003/2457	Management of Health and Safety at Work and Fire Precautions (Workplace) (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2003	2003/2770	Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Pensions) Regulations	DWP	—
2003	2003/429	Biocidal Products (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2003	2003/547	Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations	DWP	—
2002	2002/2176	Notification of New Substances (Amendment) Regulations	DWP	—
2002	2002/2677	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations	DWP	—
			DWP count	38
2009	2009/1181	European Communities (Definition of Treaties) (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) Order	PCO	DWP
			Grand count	39

Pathways to Work

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of those on the Pathways to Work programme are expected to move into work. [310624]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available in the requested format.

Official statistics for the number of job outcomes for those participating in JCP-led and provider-led pathways are available on the Department's website

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_ref_p2w.asp.

This shows that since October 2003 and as of January 2009 more than 173,000 people have moved into work through pathways (147,960 in Jobcentre Plus areas, 25,220 in provider led areas.) The next release of these statistics will be on 26 January 2010.

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of increasing *(a)* additional pension, *(b)* increments to basic pension, *(c)* increments to additional pension, *(d)* increments to graduated retirement benefit, *(e)* increments to the inheritable lump sum, *(f)* contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings, *(g)* contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997, *(h)* graduated retirement benefit, *(i)* increase of long-term incapacity for age, *(j)* basic pension addition at the age of 80 years, *(k)* increase of long-term incapacity for age and *(l)* invalidity allowance (transitional) for state pension recipients by 2.5 per cent. in 2010-11. [308336]

Angela Eagle: The following table provides estimates of the total cost of increasing the following benefits for state pension recipients by 2.5 per cent in 2010-11:

	Total cost (£ millions)
(a) Additional pension including contracted out deductions	455
(b) Increments to basic state pension	10
(d) Increments to graduated retirement benefit	0
(h) Graduated retirement benefit	47
(j) Age addition	1
(l) Invalidity allowance	2

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest million.
2. Where a value of zero is indicated, this means the total cost is less than one million pounds.
3. It is not possible to provide costings for *(c)* increments to additional pension, *(e)* increments to the inheritable lump sum, and *(i)* increase of long-term incapacity for age, with our current models.
4. Costs of contracted out deductions: *(f)* contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings; and *(g)* contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997, are included in *(a)* additional pension.

Source:

DWP, Forecasting Division.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to bring into force the Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulation 2010; and what estimate she has made of the losses incurred as a result of the failure of occupational pension schemes operating under the existing regulations. [311275]

Angela Eagle: We hope to bring the Regulation into force by spring 2010, subject to parliamentary approval.

FAS will provide help totalling £3.5 billion to around 150,000 people who would otherwise have lost out because their defined benefit pension schemes wound up under-funded.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the oral answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 299, whether the Government will guarantee to a minimum of 90 per cent. assistance from the Financial Assistance Scheme to those whose pension schemes failed between 1997 and 2005. [311279]

Angela Eagle: Since the Government legislated in June 2008 the Financial Assistance Scheme has provided a guaranteed 90 per cent. of the pension a member had accrued when their scheme started to wind up, revalued to their retirement date in line with FAS rules. This is subject to a cap, the value of which is protected. (The cap for anyone becoming entitled to assistance payments between 1 April 2009 and 31 May 2010 is £29,386.)

FAS will provide help totalling £3.5 billion to around 150,000 people who would otherwise have lost out because their defined benefit pension schemes wound up under-funded.

Unemployed: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, what additional health support will be provided to existing claimants of jobseeker's allowance; who will provide that support; when that support will become available; and in respect of what health conditions she expects claimants to be eligible for that support. [311574]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* This Department's White paper 'Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment' sets out our plans for a review of the support we offer to people with a health condition or disability regardless of which benefits they are claiming, including Jobseeker's Allowance customers who are managing health conditions or disabilities whilst actively looking for work.

We will build on the existing Jobseeker's Allowance regime, which already provides advisers with the flexibility to offer customers a tailor-made and personalised approach to look for work appropriate to a person's health condition, alongside our more specialist disability employment programmes.

We will be consulting with interested stakeholders and delivery partners over the coming weeks and will publish our proposals for future support for all customers with a health condition or disability, including when we expect these to be introduced, in the spring.

Winter Fuel Payments: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in Lewes constituency are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much her Department has paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2009-10 to date. [311172]

Angela Eagle: Information of Winter Fuel Payments for winter 2009-10 is not yet available.

For winter 2008-09, 25,290 people received a Winter Fuel Payment in Lewes constituency at a cost of £5.5 million. We expect to make a similar number of payments for winter 2009-10.

Notes:

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10
2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Winter Fuel Payments: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Salford have received the winter fuel payment in this winter; and what the cost of such payments was in the latest year for which figures are available. [311668]

Angela Eagle: Information on the number of Winter Fuel Payments for winter 2009-10 is not yet available. For winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available), 12,400 payments were made in Salford at a cost of £3 million.

Notes:

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10

2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater Manchester

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have attended the accident and emergency department of each hospital in Greater Manchester as a result of injuries sustained by slipping or falling due to adverse weather conditions on each day since 20 December 2009. [311303]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Latest provisional data on hospital admissions covers the period April to September 2009. Provisional health episode statistics data for the last three months; October to December 2009, will be available from the NHS information centre for health and social care from 9 April 2010.

Attendance Allowance: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Stroud constituency have claimed attendance allowance in each of the last five years. [310946]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is in the following table.

Attendance allowance cases in payment for the Stroud parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year

	Total
2005	2,740
2006	2,870
2007	2,920
2008	3,030
2009	3,230

Notes:

1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.

2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Breast Cancer: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of women resident in Preston with suspected breast cancer have seen a specialist within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997. [311069]

Ann Keen: The two week wait for breast cancer was introduced from April 1999 (HSC1998/242). From this date forward, all patients urgently referred for suspected breast cancer by their general practitioner could expect to be seen by a specialist within 14 days of referral.

Data for the period 1997-2002 is not available. However, the following table details the numbers of patients covered by the standard and the reported performance for the period July 2002 to December 2008 for providers in Preston:

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Provider*	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter (Q)1 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	[1]—	[1]—	n/a
Q2 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	219	219	100.0
Q3 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	238	238	100.0
Q4 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	214	214	100.0
Q1 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	193	193	100.0
Q2 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	207	207	100.0
Q3 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	267	267	100.0
Q4 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	253	253	100.0
Q1 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	289	289	100.0
Q2 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	237	237	100.0
Q3 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	264	264	100.0
Q4 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	231	231	100.0
Q1 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	305	305	100.0
Q2 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	267	267	100.0
Q3 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	310	310	100.0
Q4 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	254	254	100.0
Q1 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	289	289	100.0
Q2 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	290	290	100.0
Q3 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	305	304	99.7
Q4 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	276	276	100.0
Q1 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	248	248	100.0

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Provider*	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter (Q) 2 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	262	262	100.0
Q3 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	300	300	100.0
Q4 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	241	241	100.0
Q1 2008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	292	292	100.0
Q2 2008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	259	259	100.0
Q3 2008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	289	289	100.0

[1] No data available.

From 1 January 2009 onwards the definitions and methodology used to calculate these statistics are no longer directly comparable to those used previously. This change means that the national health service no longer adjusts the statistics for the two week wait to separate referrals after 24 hours or account for patient choice, where individuals elect to delay their appointment. Statistics for the period January 2009 to September 2009 are included in the following table:

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Provider*	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter (Q) 4 2008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	289	275	95.2
Q1 2009-10	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	306	296	96.7
Q2 2009-10	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	345	325	94.2

Source:
Cancer programme

Cancer: Health Services

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients saw a cancer specialist within two weeks of diagnosis in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes in 2008-09. [311096]

Ann Keen: The two week wait for all cancers was introduced from 2000. From this date forward, all patients urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner could expect to be seen by a specialist within 14 days of referral. The following table shows the numbers of patients covered by this standard and the reported performance for the period April 2008 to March 2009, for England and Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
All English providers			
Quarter 1 2008-09	186,364	186,120	99.9
Quarter 2 2008-09	189,397	188,832	99.7
Quarter 3 2008-09	186,206	185,924	99.8
Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust			
Quarter 1 2008-09	805	805	100
Quarter 2 2008-09	917	917	100
Quarter 3 2008-09	869	869	100

From 1 January 2009 onwards the definitions and methodology used to calculate these statistics are no longer directly comparable to those used previously. This change means that the national health service no longer adjusts the statistics for the two week wait to separate referrals after 24 hours or account for patient choice, where individuals elect to delay their appointment. The following table shows the reported performance for the period January 2009 to March 2009, for England and Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Provider*	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter 4 2008-09	All English Providers	191,508	181,038	94.5
Quarter 4 2008-09	Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,098	1,058	96.4

Cancer: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of suspected cancer patients resident in Preston saw an NHS consultant within two weeks of referral in each year since 1997. [311149]

Ann Keen: The two week wait for all cancers was introduced from 2000 (HSC1999/205). From this date forward, all patients urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner could expect to be seen by a specialist within 14 days of referral.

Data for the period 1997-2002 is not available. The following table details the numbers of patients covered by the standard and the reported performance for the period April 2002 to December 2008 for providers in Preston:

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Provider*	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter (Q) 1 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Q2 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	822	822	100.0
Q3 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	822	822	100.0
Q4 2002-03	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	783	783	100.0
Q1 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	843	843	100.0
Q2 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	887	887	100.0
Q3 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	990	990	100.0
Q4 2003-04	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	987	987	100.0
Q1 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,092	1,092	100.0
Q2 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,034	1,034	100.0
Q3 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,016	1,016	100.0
Q4 2004-05	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	916	916	100.0
Q1 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,126	1,126	100.0
Q2 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,185	1,185	100.0
Q3 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,157	1,157	100.0
Q4 2005-06	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,086	1,086	100.0
Q1 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,212	1,212	100.0
Q2 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,323	1,323	100.0
Q3 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,355	1,354	99.9
Q4 2006-07	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1,323	1,322	99.9
Q1 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,389	1,384	99.6
Quarter (Q) 2 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,451	1,451	100.0
Q3 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,466	1,466	100.0
Q4 2007-08	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,348	1,344	99.7
Q12008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,486	1,486	100.0
Q2 2008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,453	1,453	100.0
Q3 2008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,427	1,427	100.0

[1] No data available

From 1 January 2009 onwards the definitions and methodology used to calculate these statistics are no longer directly comparable to those used previously. This change means that the national health service no longer adjusts the statistics for the two week wait to separate referrals after 24 hours or account for patient choice, where individuals elect to delay their appointment. Statistics for the period January 2009 to September 2009 are included in the following table:

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Provider*	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Quarter (Q) 4 2008-09	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,573	1,511	96.1
Q1 2009-10	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,721	1,601	93.0
Q2 2009-10	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,867	1,737	93.0

Source:
Cancer Programme

Dental Services: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to improve NHS dental provision in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire in 2010. [311105]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to plan, develop and improve national health service services according to the healthcare needs of their local populations. This includes NHS dental services. Details of plans to improve dental services in Chorley can be obtained from the Central Lancashire PCT direct.

We have invested a record £2 billion in dentistry and set up a national access programme to help the NHS deliver its commitment to provide access for all who seek it by 2011.

Access to NHS dentistry is growing. The latest data show that access has grown for the fifth quarter running.

with 939,000 more patients accessing NHS services in the 24 months ending September 2009 than compared to the 24 months ending June 2008.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies plans to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to cut its carbon emissions by 10 per cent. in 2010. [311388]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Health fully supports the 10:10 campaign, and the Department has reduced its carbon emissions by over 17 per cent. since 1999-2000. We are working closely with the Carbon Trust to identify measures that will further improve our performance. The Department has recently issued 2010-11 business planning guidance to its arm's length bodies (ALBs), requiring them to produce climate change plans, and we will encourage them to do this during 2010-11.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many iPODs have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311915]

Phil Hope: The procurement of electronic equipment is made via centrally provided catalogues and contracts. iPODs are not available through these catalogues or contracts and therefore the Department has not purchased any iPODS since 2005.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which websites his Department's staff are prevented from accessing from departmental networked computers. [311470]

Phil Hope: The Department has an acceptable use of information technology (IT) policy for both business and personal use. This is part of our safeguards to protect staff and ensure that its systems are not used in ways that risk breaking the law, damaging the Department's reputation, causing offence to colleagues or people outside the Department or disruption to IT systems. It makes clear the types of websites that are deemed unacceptable such as on-line gambling, operating a personal or freelance business, selling items on internet auction sites (i.e. E-Bay), or participating in political activities. This policy is promoted to all staff and a commercial tool is used to enforce this policy and uses categories to control access to websites. Below is the list of categories currently blocked for departmental networked computers to protect the Department or the individual as in the case of phishing websites.

Blocked categories

Gambling
Illegal or questionable
Tasteless
Violence
Weapons
Racism and Hate
Malicious websites
Spyware
Phishing and other Frauds
Keylogger
Nudity
Adult Content
Sex
URL Translation
Proxy avoidance
MP3 and Audio Downloads
Militancy and Extremists
Potentially unwanted software
Bot nets

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those resident in Preston over (1) retirement age have access to free eye tests; [311144]

(2) the age of 60 are entitled to free eye tests. [311145]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service sight tests, by patient eligibility, in England in 2008-09 is available in Table B3 of Annex B of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales, Year Ending 31 March 2009" report.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity0809p2

From 1 April 1999, eligibility for a free NHS sight test was extended to everyone aged 60 or over.

Notes:

1. Information is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority but is not available by town.

2. From 1 April 1999, eligibility for a free NHS sight test was extended to everyone aged 60 or over. Patients may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate. Patients may also have had more than one sight test in the specified time period.

Health Centres: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department provides for each primary care trust in London to establish and run of polyclinics; and if he will make a statement. [311852]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The provision of polyclinics within a local health community is a matter for the local national health service in London, and funding will be drawn from a primary care trust's overall allocation.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 476W, on health services: Isle of Man, if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* provide to the Isle of Man authorities a copy of the dataset used in the calculation of the allocation of funding provided to the Isle of Man under the present bilateral agreement. [311128]

Gillian Merron: The Isle of Man provided the dataset used in the calculation of the allocation of funding provided to the Isle of Man under the current bilateral healthcare agreement with the United Kingdom. As it contains personal data, it cannot be place in the Library.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial contribution the Isle of Man government made to the NHS in England under the current reciprocal agreement in 2008-09; what estimate he has made of the cost of the arrangements under the reciprocal agreement with Isle of Man government to the NHS in England in 2008-09. [311305]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 476W.

Health Services: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on healthcare in Preston in each year since 1997. [311070]

Ann Keen: The information required is not held centrally. The amount spent on health care by Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) from 2002-03 to 2008-09, which are the only years for which information is available by organisation, is shown in the following table:

Central Lancashire PCT, purchase of health care 2002-03 to 2008-09

£000

	Primary health care	*Secondary health care*	*Other health care*
2008-09	159,147	515,266	236
2007-08	155,836	482,570	1,212
2006-07	153,019	438,633	669
2005-06	144,117	418,192	867
2004-05	127,307	387,445	634
2003-04	111,669	347,682	2,561
2002-03	85,505	323,138	93

Notes:

1. Central Lancashire PCT serves a number of constituencies—it is not possible to disaggregate the amount spent specifically in Preston from the figures.

2. The figures are taken from the audited summarisation schedules of Central Lancashire PCT and its predecessor organisations.

3. The figures represent the total primary, secondary and other health care purchased and provided for the PCT's resident population, with the exception of primary dental and general ophthalmic services since these costs are not directly attributed to PCTs on the basis of a patient's place of residence.

4. "Other health care" as defined in the audited summarisation schedules is taken to include expenditure for national health service trust impairments, plus grants to other bodies for health related capital projects under joint working arrangements.

5. Central Lancashire PCT was formed as part of the reconfiguration of PCTs in October 2006, following the merger of Preston PCT, Chorley and South Ribble PCT and part of West Lancashire PCT.

6. The figures provided for 2002-03 to 2005-06 are the sum of these three PCTs.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2008-09.

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses there were in Preston in each year since 1997. [311146]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of national health service hospital and community health service (HCHS) staff in Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in each specified staff group in each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Central Lancashire PCT							
Medical and Dental staff	16	24	22	26	20	27	42
General Practitioners (GPs)	275	276	282	290	278	282	285
HCHS Nurses	630	743	792	812	824	752	784
GP Practice nurses	171	173	186	185	244	182	153
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust							
Medical and Dental staff	484	482	544	559	610	640	657
HCHS Nurses	1,915	1,928	1,855	1,950	2,058	2,088	2,161

Notes:

1. Central Lancashire PCT was formed in 2006 from a merger of Chorley and South Ribble PCT, West Lancashire PCT and Preston PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.

2. Due to the large number of organisation mergers taking place in 2002, it is impossible to accurately map work force figures for these organisations prior to 2002.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* therapists and *(b)* scientists there were in Preston in each year since 1997. [311147]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of national health service qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff in Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is shown in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST and T) staff by main staff group in each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Central Lancashire PCT							
Allied health professionals	244	288	340	318	353	338	328
Manager	7	9	11	11	15	6	7
Therapist	217	255	288	263	290	282	269
Scientist	—	1	1	1	1	1	1

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST and T) staff by main staff group in each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

							Headcount
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Technician	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Instructor/teacher	19	22	40	43	47	49	49
Healthcare Scientists	—	—	2	3	2	2	2
Managers	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Medical Technical Officer/Technician	—	—	2	2	1	2	2
Other Qualified ST and T	21	30	31	36	54	48	70
Consultant therapist/scientist	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Manager	—	1	3	2	6	7	6
Therapist	2	15	17	18	31	28	47
Scientist	8	9	7	10	11	8	8
Technician	2	1	—	1	2	3	5
Instructor/teacher	9	4	4	5	4	2	2
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust							
Allied health professionals	287	300	309	317	324	343	345
Manager	6	5	5	5	6	7	8
Therapist	271	293	286	294	304	317	319
Scientist	—	1	1	1	—	1	2
Technician	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Instructor/teacher	8	1	17	17	14	18	16
Tutor	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Healthcare scientists	—	168	193	193	200	201	199
Consultant Clinical Scientist (Grade C)	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
Managers	—	5	5	5	6	4	3
Clinical Scientist (Grade A and B)	—	1	6	5	7	8	9
Advanced Practitioner Biomedical Scientist	—	—	—	—	2	3	3
MLSO/Biomedical Scientist	—	113	120	119	122	122	120
Medical Technical Officer/Technician	—	49	62	63	62	62	62
Other qualified ST and T	316	258	182	193	193	177	199
Consultant therapist/scientist	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Manager	5	1	1	1	2	2	11
Therapist	9	6	6	6	3	4	6
Scientist	42	56	52	47	45	41	36
Scientific officer	86	5	5	7	5	3	3
Technician	174	190	117	131	138	126	142

Notes:

1. Occupation codes for healthcare scientists were not introduced until 2003, and did not become mandatory until 2004. Prior to this these staff were collected under Other ST and T occupation codes.
2. Central Lancashire PCT was formed in 2006 from a complete merger of Chorley and South Ribble PCT, West Lancashire PCT and a part merger of Preston PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
3. Due to the large number of organisation mergers taking place in 2002, it is impossible to accurately map work force figures for these organisations prior to 2002.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census

Health Services: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per capita on healthcare for residents of Salford *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest year for which figures are available. [311674]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, information relevant to spend per capita for Salford Primary Care Trust (PCT) in the period 2008-09 is shown in the following table:

Spend on health care per capita for Salford PCT 2008-09

	£
Spend per head of population	1,826

Notes:

1. Spend on health care per capita in Salford PCT 2008-09—calculated as the PCT's total spend on health care for 2008-09, divided by the population.
2. Spend on health care is defined as the total primary, secondary and other health care purchased and provided for the PCT's resident population, with the exception of primary dental and general ophthalmic services since these costs are not directly attributed to PCTs on the basis of a patient's place of residence.

Source:

Department of Health

Heart Diseases and Cancer: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated for the treatment of heart disease and cancer care in Preston in each year since 1997. [311068]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. Information on programme budgeting estimated expenditure of cancer and tumours and problems of circulation in the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) is shown in the following tables:

Central Lancashire PCT—programme budgeting estimated expenditure on own population on cancer and tumours

Financial year	*Estimated expenditure on own population on cancer and tumours (£000)*
2003-04	30,063
2004-05	33,563

Central Lancashire PCT—programme budgeting estimated expenditure on own population on cancer and tumours

Financial year	*Estimated expenditure on own population on cancer and tumours (£000)*
2005-06	36,527
2006-07	32,888
2007-08	46,692
2008-09	44,066

Central Lancashire PCT—programme budgeting estimated expenditure on own population on problems of circulation category and subcategories

£000

	Estimated expenditure on own population on problems of circulation and subcategories				
Financial year	*Coronary heart disease*	*Cerebrovascular disease*	*Problems of rhythm*	*Problems of circulation (other)*	*Problems of circulation total*
2003-04	—	—	—	—	40,796
2004-05	—	—	—	—	44,661
2005-06	—	—	—	—	50,052
2006-07	22,769	7,864	3,107	23,250	56,990
2007-08	22,665	12,160	3,660	29,725	68,210
2008-09	19,505	17,042	4,079	30,494	71,120

Notes:

1. The programme budgeting data collection is complex, therefore expenditure figures are best estimates rather than precise measurements. Year on year comparisons are not straightforward due to annual refinements to the data collection methodology and changes to underlying data sources.
2. Subcategory level data tend to be less robust than main category data as they are smaller categories and are therefore subject to greater variation.
3. Figures include expenditure across all sectors. Disease specific expenditure do not include expenditure on prevention, or general practitioner expenditure, but do include prescribing expenditure.

Source:

Annual PCT programme budgeting financial returns.

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of NHS waiting times for heart surgery in Preston. [311150]

Ann Keen: Excellent progress has been made to reduce waiting times for heart patients. Since March 2005 no one should have waited more than three months for heart surgery and since the end of 2005 no one has waited more than six months for angiography.

The following table shows the median waiting time for coronary heart disease patients still waiting for the latest period available in the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) area.

Central Lancashire PCT

	Median (weeks)			
Month Ending	*CABG*	*PTCA*	*Combined*	*Breaches of the current standard (13 weeks)*
November 2009	4.2	2.4	2.7	0

Notes:

1. CABG—Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
2. PTCA—Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty
3. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
4. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
5. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
6. Any patient waiting longer than 13 weeks for a CABG or PTCA procedure is classed as a breach of the standard.

Source:

Department of Health Waiting List Collections MMRCOM

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those resident in Preston awaiting heart surgery have had the option of choosing an alternative hospital in the last 12 months. [311151]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reviews of hospital services in London *(a)* have been concluded in the last 12 months and *(b)* are underway; what the remit is of each review; and if he will publish (i) all final and interim reports of such reviews and (ii) all studies and reports commissioned in support of such reviews. [311854]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of time was for an individual to wait for a hospital operation in Salford *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest year for which information is available. [311673]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table contains the median in-patient waiting time at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust in March 1997 and in the latest period for which information is available.

Median in-patient waiting time for elective admission patients still waiting (weeks)—all specialities at March 1997 and November 2009 at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

Month ending	*Median (weeks)*
March 1997	11.5
November 2009	3.0

Notes:

1. The data provided in the response have been compiled from the monthly and quarterly in-patient and out-patient waiting list information. These data are used to assess delivery against the standards for a 13-maximum wait for a first outpatient appointment and for a 26-week maximum wait for in-patient admission from the decision to admit which came into effect in December 2005. These data have been used for this answer rather than 18 weeks referral to treatment (RTT) data, because in-patient waiting time data are available for longer historical time series than RTT data.

2. The median waiting time reflects the amount of time that the 'middle' patient treated has waited. The median rather than the mean is used as it is less prone to fluctuations caused by extreme values, and reflects the experience of the average (middle) person.

Source:

Department of Health

Influenza

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 655W, on influenza, under what budget the funding which was transferred was first allocated. [311974]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The transfer was funded from the Department's capital departmental expenditure limit provision of £5,573 million as set out in the "Notes to the Main Estimate: Departmental Expenditure Limits and Administration Budgets" table published within Department's section of "Central Government Supply Estimates 2009-10: Main Supply Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2010"—page 78. [House of Commons HC514].

Injuries: Snow and Ice

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated at Lancashire teaching hospitals for injuries relating to snow and icy roads in the last quarter. [311058]

Ann Keen: Latest provisional data on hospital admissions cover the period April to September 2009. Provisional Health Episode Statistics data for the last three months; October to December 2009, will be available from the NHS Information Centre for health and social care from 9 April 2010. These will include admissions due to falls involving ice and snow, and land transport accidents.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on requiring *(a)* NHS foundation trusts and *(b)* Monitor to provide information in response to parliamentary questions on the operation of NHS foundation trusts; and if he will make a statement. [311414]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) and NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs) are accountable to Parliament and must exercise their functions effectively, efficiently and economically. Both are expected to respond to written parliamentary questions (PQs) about their remit and operation according to the same standards expected of Ministers as outlined in the Ministerial Code. Where a PQ is for monitor to answer, Ministers respond on behalf of the regulator on the basis of information supplied to them. Where a PQ is for an individual NHSFT to answer, the question is referred to the relevant chair to respond directly to the member of Parliament or peer, and a copy of the letter is made available in the Library.

When responding to questions during a parliamentary debate on an issue falling within the responsibility of monitor or an NHSFT, Ministers will make clear that they are responding on behalf of the organisation or more commonly refer the member of Parliament and peer to the Chair of the relevant organisation.

An NHSFT that fails to respond to any question submitted to it by or on behalf of a member of Parliament or peer may be found in breach of terms of its Terms of Authorisation, which may potentially result in regulatory action by Monitor in response to any complaints raised.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the *(a)* pay and conditions and *(b)* special bonuses of chief executives of NHS foundation trusts; what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the pay of chief executives of NHS foundation trusts; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [311252]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have no plans to bring forward proposals to regulate the pay and conditions and special bonus arrangements for chief executives of NHS foundation trusts.

Following detailed cross-Government discussion which included the Department, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister asked the chairman of the Senior Salaries Review Body on 23 December 2009 to carry out a review of senior pay in the public sector. That review will include the principles governing such pay, and appropriate benchmarks. The review body has now started its work, and the Department stands ready to provide support, as it is needed.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects that changes to accounting standards will have on charitable giving to hospital funds. [311763]

Phil Hope: The application of International Financial Reporting Standards to national health service organisations will have no effect on the independence of NHS charitable funds. These will continue to be entirely separate from NHS budgets and the use of these funds will continue to be regulated by the Charity Commission. People can continue to donate to NHS charities, safe in the knowledge that their donations will be used in the way they intended.

However, in recognition of the concern this issue has caused, we are working with colleagues in the Treasury and elsewhere to seek to delay the implementation of this requirement while we review the ways in which

NHS charities are governed, to ensure their independence continues to be protected and is clear and transparent to all.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure changes to accounting standards do not affect the independence of organisations in receipt of charitable funds donated to hospitals. [311764]

Phil Hope: Officials have met with representatives of the Charity Commission, together with other stakeholders, on several occasions in the last year to discuss changes in the accounting standards in respect of linked charitable funds and national health service organisations. I will be meeting with the chief executive and chair of the Charity Commission on 28 January 2010 to discuss this issue further.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that funds donated to NHS services are spent in an accountable manner. [311765]

Phil Hope: Funds that are donated to national health service services are received and administered by the trustees of NHS charities. The trustees of these charities have a legal responsibility to ensure that funds are used in line with their charitable objects and in accordance with the purpose for which any specific donations have been given. This is regulated by the Charity Commission.

Independent auditors review the use of charitable donations as part of their routine audit and will report an instance of misuse to the Charity Commission.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has accrued in charitable funds donated *(a)* to each primary care trust and *(b)* in each strategic health authority area in the last three years. [311778]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold information on the funds of NHS Charities. The accounts of NHS Charities are held by the Charity Commission.

Patients: Surveys

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the sample base is of the GP patient survey being conducted by the Peninsular Medical School and the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre at the University of Manchester; what the timescale is for the survey; when the results will be published; and if he will make a statement. [311648]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The GP Patient survey is conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Department of Health. The Department has worked closely with academics from Peninsula Medical School, the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre and the University of Cambridge to develop the questionnaire.

The questionnaire is sent to 5.7 million patients in England over the course of the year. Each quarter approximately 1.4 million patients will be asked to take part. Quarters 1 and 2 were published on 17 December 2009. Further publications will be made in April and June 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the Audit Commission oneplace website on the latest date for which figures are available. [311713]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the Chief *Executive* of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 20 January 2010:

Parliamentary Question: what the cost to the public purse was of the Audit Commission Oneplace website on the latest date for which figures are available.

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The cost incurred by the Audit Commission of building the Oneplace web portal is £484,000. This includes an estimated £220,000 on design and consultation with members of the public to ensure that the site meets their needs. The Audit Commission has incurred these costs on behalf of the inspectorates and regulators with responsibility for CAA.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Audit Commission: National Fraud Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution the National Fraud Authority makes to the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative. [311745]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 20 January 2010:

Parliamentary Question: what contribution the National Fraud Authority makes to the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative.

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Bernard Herdan, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Fraud Authority (NFA) is one of two external stakeholder members of the Audit Commission's Data Matching Strategy Board.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Audit Commission: Political Activities

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the letter from the Head of the Home Civil Service of 12 January 2009 on non-departmental public bodies: attendance at party conferences, which individual in his Department approved the attendance of Audit Commission representatives at party conferences in 2009. [311814]

Barbara Follett: The Permanent Secretary, Peter Housden, approved the attendance of Audit Commission representatives at party conferences in 2009, within the guidelines laid down by the Cabinet Office.

Audit Commission: Public Opinion

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1261W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, how much the Audit Commission paid to *(a)* ComRes, *(b)* YouGov and *(c)* Consolidated Communications in 2008-09; on what dates such payments were made; and what services were provided by each organisation. [311827]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 20 January 2010:

Parliamentary Question: pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, Official Report, column 1261W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, how much the Audit Commission paid to (a) ComRes, (b) YouGov and (c) Consolidated Communications in 2008-09; on what dates such payments were made; and what services were provided by each organisation.

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission made the following payments to:

ComRes:		
12 February 2009	£5,117.50	Changes in council performance assessment
5 March 2009	£5,117.50	Changes in council performance assessment
24 March 2009	£10,350	Follow-up work to a Councillors Poll
YouGov:		
11 March 2009	£4,099.75	Better Use of Information Study
Consolidated Communications:		
29/04/2008	£5,000	Public Affairs consultancy
26/05/2008	£5,000	Public Affairs consultancy
17/07/2008	£5,000	Public Affairs consultancy
26/08/2008	£5,000	Public Affairs consultancy
16/10/2008	£5,000	Public Affairs consultancy

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Buildings: Energy

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the level of compliance with the requirement to provide display energy certificates in all public buildings of over 1,000 square metres; and if he will make a statement. [310630]

John Healey: The 29 March 2007 "Regulatory Impact Assessment Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Articles 7-10" estimated that there are approximately 42,000 public buildings that require a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). As of 14 January 2010, the latest date for which figures are available, the total number of public sector buildings or sites for which DECs have been lodged on the non-domestic register currently stands at 32,364.

The Office of Government Commerce are working with facilities managers to improve the level of compliance in Government buildings from the current level of 85 per cent., while CLG has written to local authorities reminding them of their responsibilities to have DECs prepared on buildings in their ownership.

Council Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 213W, on council tax, what information his Department holds on the *(a)* type and *(b)* level of discount offered by each authority named in the answer. [311802]

Barbara Follett: The information held by Communities and Local Government in respect of local council tax discounts in operation under the Local Government Act 2003 offered by each authority in England consists of indicators to show if (a) the authority has used this power to reduce the council tax payable between 1 April and 5 October 2009, and (b) if the authority plans to use this power between the 6 October 2009 and 31 March 2010. In addition the authority is required to provide details of the circumstances in which they have reduced, or will reduce, the amount payable; any classes of case in respect of which a reduction has been, or will be granted and the reduction granted.

The data are reported on CTB (Supplementary) forms submitted annually in October by all billing authorities in England to Communities and Local Government.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what performance targets his Department used to determine whether to grant staff bonuses in the last financial year. [312038]

Barbara Follett: In Communities and Local Government, annual non-consolidated performance awards are made to those members of staff who are found to have made a significant contribution towards the achievement of the teams, and/or Department's objectives. Individuals are expected to show that they have exceeded the requirements set for the achievement of the objective and have demonstrated exemplary behaviour in doing so. Our senior civil service staff members are also assessed against a range of factors, such as:

The achievement of their prime objective which focuses on the way in which they lead, manage and develop their staff;

Degree to which business objectives are met;

Delivery for Ministers;

Demonstration of skills such as judgment, leadership and the PSG skills;

Effective resource management.

Employees below the senior civil service are also eligible to receive special non-consolidated performance awards that reward exceptional performance over a limited period in particularly demanding tasks or situations.

They relate to specific tasks carried out exceptionally well: they are not intended to reflect continuous/sustained good performance throughout the year, which should be reflected in the annual performance awards.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [312023]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1498W.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what volume of waste his Department generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of his Department's waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311371]

Barbara Follett: The following table identifies the amount of waste generated by the Department for Communities and Local Government over the last three years and further details the percentage of waste disposed of securely, disposed of in landfill and the waste recycled.

CLG Central

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total waste (tonnes)	461	624	476
Percentage of paper[1]	28	42	42
Percentage of plastic	2	1	2
Percentage of glass	8	3	1
Percentage of metal	4	1	1
Percentage of electrical good and batteries	1	1	1
Percentage of food waste	5	3	8
Percentage disposed of securely	2	2	1
Percentage disposed of in landfill[2]	0.13	0.10	0.11
Percentage total recycled rate[3]	57	68	62

[1] The data for paper includes cardboard as these materials are often mixed for recycling.

[2] General waste is sent to an incineration plant to generate energy from waste. The ash produced from the process is the only waste sent to landfill.

[3] This data includes materials separated and sent for external reuse by other organisations.

The total waste increased in 2007-08 due to refurbishment work associated relocations. However, general waste sent for incineration did not increase as the main increase was paper and furniture which was recycled or reused.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1650W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, how much and what proportion of the formula grant given to local authorities in the most recent year for which figures are available related to *(a)* waste collection and *(b)* waste disposal duties. [311527]

Barbara Follett: Formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant where appropriate is an unhypothecated block grant, i.e. councils are free to spend it on any service provided that they meet their statutory duties. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been allocated for any particular service.

Fire Services: Disadvantaged

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 378W, on the Equality Bill, what assessment has been made of the likely effect of a duty to tackle socio-economic disadvantage of the effectiveness of the Fire and Rescue Service in *(a)* preventing and *(b)* tackling fires. [311784]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Where the socio-economic duty applies to fire and rescue authorities, it will ensure that they continue to focus their preventative work on the households and areas that are most at risk of fire, and encourage and support their joint working on this with key partners. The duty will not affect the work of fire and rescue services in tackling fires.

Government Departments: Energy

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the level of compliance with the requirement to provide energy performance certificates in respect of the sale of buildings in the commercial property sector; and if he will make a statement. [310629]

John Healey: The 29 March 2007 "Regulatory Impact Assessment Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Articles 7-10" estimated that there was likely to be a need for approximately 216,000 non-domestic EPCs to be prepared per annum following the coming into force of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/991).

Up to and including 13 January 2010, the latest date for which figures are available, the total number of non-domestic EPCs that has been prepared since the regulations came into force in relation to non-domestic buildings in April 2008 is 141,339.

We recognise that non-compliance is a cause for concern in the non-domestic sector, although these requirements were only extended to include all non-domestic buildings from October 2008. From April 2008, only buildings with a total floor area greater than 10,000 square metres required an EPC and from July 2008 only those with a total floor area greater than 2,500 square metres. It is also important to note that the estimates included in the impact assessment pre-dated the economic downturn, which is likely to have had a negative impact on demand.

The regulations stipulate that local weights and measures authorities are responsible for enforcement. We have taken a number of steps to assist them in this task, including providing advice and guidance to trading standards officers (TSOs) about what is required and who is responsible, and providing them with full access to the EPC Register for enforcement purposes.

We are also considering what more might be done through the regulations themselves in order to clarify when the need for an EPC for non-domestic buildings is triggered and whether to bring forward elements of the recast of the EPBD once it has been adopted by the European Union to make it easier for TSOs to identify the person responsible for making that an EPC is made available to prospective buyers and tenants can more readily be identified and targeted for enforcement action.

Local Government Services: Complaints

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to make a formal response to the report of the independent review on redress for citizens chaired by David Cook. [312030]

Barbara Follett: We are currently discussing the recommendations made in the review team's report, "Getting it Right and Righting the Wrongs", with colleagues across Whitehall, and will be issuing a formal Government response shortly. A number of the report's recommendations are already being taken forward by the programme of pilots currently under way to explore the use of the practitioners' toolkit produced by the review.

Local Government: Cornwall

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest estimate is of the gross costs consequent on local government restructuring in Cornwall since 2007. [311666]

Barbara Follett: Cornwall council's latest estimate of the gross costs of setting up the new unitary council is £19 million. This year the council has budgeted to make savings of some £15.64 million in 2009-10 of which 87 per cent. are already delivered. In addition the council is investing a further £23.6 million in its transformation programme which will deliver additional savings and service improvements.

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of his local government task force on value for money efficiencies; which members represent trade unions; what private sector representation there will be on that task force; and whether members of that task force have made a declaration of political activity. [312033]

Barbara Follett: The members of the "Putting the Frontline First" Task Force are:

Sir Steve Bullock—Mayor of LB Lewisham and chair of LGA HR panel (co-chair)

Sir Richard Leese—Leader, Manchester city council (co-chair)

John Ransford—LGA

Jan Parkinson—LGE

Steve Bundred—Audit Commission

Steve Freer—CIPFA

Heather Wakefield—Unison

Joyce Redfearn—Chief executive, Wigan council and national chair of RIEPs

Nicola Bulbeck—Chief executive, Teignbridge district council, and interim chief executive, Torridge district council

Andrew Kerr—Chief executive, North Tyneside

Chris Bull—Chief executive, Herefordshire council and Herefordshire PCT

The task force has a Unison representative on the membership, and does not include any private sector representation. The task force members have not made a declaration of political activity.

Local Government: Elections

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has given to local authorities on whether funding under the Connecting Communities programme may be spent during a regulated election period. [311534]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has given no advice to local authorities on whether funding under the Connecting Communities programme may be spent during the pre-election period of local elections. There are specific codes of conduct, guidance and legal requirements regarding the activities of local authorities during this period.

In particular, local authorities must have regard to the specific guidance, contained in the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity issued under section 4 of the Local Government Act 1985. Paragraphs 41 and 43 contain the guidance to councils about publicity between the notice of an election and the election itself. It is up to local authorities, having regard to this guidance, to decide what they deem appropriate activity during this period.

Local Government: Publicity

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the publication of a revised Code of Conduct on Local Authority Publicity. [312006]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We will be publishing our response to the over 300 representations we received on our consultation about possible revisions to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity shortly.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what evaluation work his Department has undertaken on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. [312028]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department published an evaluation report on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in November 2008 entitled 'Impacts and Outcomes of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund'. The report can be accessed via the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/nrfimpactsoutcomes

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of businesses were participating in the business rate deferral scheme on the latest date for which figures are available. [312035]

Barbara Follett: Our priority is to give businesses real help now so that they are able to manage in the current economic climate. The deferral scheme is part of a wide package of support the Government have put in place, and it was up to businesses to decide whether to use this option depending on their individual circumstances. We have asked local authorities to collect figures on the total number of deferrals granted and the total amount deferred and we intend to publish that data after the end of the billing year.

Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average catalyst price per litre of unleaded fuel was used to calculate the business rate for *(a)* non-supermarket and *(b)* supermarket petrol retail outlets in the year to 1 April 2009. [311044]

Barbara Follett: An overall 'average' Catalist price per litre of unleaded fuel for *(a)* non-supermarket and *(b)* supermarket retail outlets was not used to assess rateable values for the draft 2010 Rating Lists.

Individual site average prices per litre were obtained for the calendar years 2005-07 from Experian Catalist. Individual site 2007 figures, where supplied, were used together with the fair maintainable throughput of the site to arrive at a value per 1,000 litres of maintainable throughput.

The average 2007 price per litre of unleaded fuel for England and Wales, as supplied by Catalist was 94.99 pence per litre (ppl). On the information supplied, the average for all non-supermarket sites was 95.27ppl, while the average for all supermarket sites was 93.50ppl.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what ceiling applied to *(a)* non-supermarket and *(b)* supermarket petrol retail outlet shop sales in assessing rateable values for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect from 1 April 2010. [311045]

Barbara Follett: The value of the forecourt shop, forming part of either *(a)* non-supermarket or *(b)* supermarket petrol filling stations, has been capped at £110,000 rateable value.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology will be used to rate *(a)* supermarket petrol retail outlets and *(b)* non-supermarket petrol retail outlets for their new rateable value for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect on 1 April 2010. [311047]

Barbara Follett: The rental comparative method of valuation has been used to value both *(a)* supermarket and *(b)* non-supermarket petrol filling stations.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what relative changes in property values have been taken into account in assessing the rateable values of petrol retail outlets for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect on 1 April 2010. [311051]

Barbara Follett: The relative change in the rental value of petrol filling stations between 1 April 2003 and 1 April 2008 have been taken into account in assessing the rateable values of petrol retail outlets for the 2010 revaluation, which comes into effect on 1 April 2010.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information was used to reach the assessment of the new rateable values for petrol retail outlets prior to the business rate to come into effect on 1 April 2010. [311055]

Barbara Follett: Rental evidence obtained from petrol filling station operators forms the primary information base used to reach rateable values. Additionally, information gained from discussions with industry representatives and anecdotal evidence from surveyors working in the specific rental market have been used.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the date was of the revaluation of petrol retail outlets used for the purpose of calculating the current business rate for such outlets. [311080]

Barbara Follett: The Antecedent Valuation Date (AVD) for the current Rating Lists, for all non-domestic hereditements, including petrol retail outlets, is 1 April 2003. The equivalent date for the revaluation due to come into force on 1 April 2010 is 1 April 2008. Physical changes affecting the property or its locality are usually included in the valuation, or altered valuation, as at the date of the change.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government over what period the assessment took place of rateable values of petrol retail outlets for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect on 1 April 2010; and what information has become available to his Department on *(a)* the volume of forecourt petrol sales and *(b)* levels of revenue from forecourt (i) shops and (ii) car washes since the end of that period. [311083]

Barbara Follett: Discussions about the assessment of rateable values of petrol retail outlets between the Valuation Office Agency and industry representatives began in October 2007. The 2010 Petrol Valuation Scheme was developed during the period from then until draft individual valuations were published on 1 October 2009. Discussions with industry representatives and their agents are ongoing.

No information on the volume of forecourt petrol sales and levels of revenue from forecourt shops and car washes since 1 October 2009 has become available to Communities and Local Government. Further information has become available to the Valuation Office Agency as part of its ongoing discussions with industry representatives and, where relevant, will be taken into account in the final assessments of the rateable values of petrol retail outlets used for the purpose of calculating their non-domestic rates as from 1 April 2010.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether trading conditions in the petrol retail trade since the last date used to assess the rateable value of petrol retail outlets for the purpose of calculating the business rate from 1 April 2010 have been taken into account in setting that rate. [311084]

Barbara Follett: The Antecedent Valuation Date (AVD) for the revaluation due to come into force on 1 April 2010 is 1 April 2008. Changes in value after this date that are solely due to economic factors are not reflected in rateable values. However, physical changes to the property or its locality, which would have a material effect on the rental value of the property, can be taken into account.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Non-domestic Rates: Homeworking

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether dwellings in which home working is undertaken are liable for business rates. [312001]

Barbara Follett: The nature, extent and frequency of any non-domestic use within a home will determine whether the homeworking is merely de minimis in the context of the dwelling, or whether the use is of sufficient scale and intensity as to warrant a separate rateable value. In the majority of cases the type and scale of use together with the domestic nature of a room and furniture will not result in rateability. Each case is treated on its own merits as explained in the VOA factsheet 'Working at or from home' accessible on the VOA website.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the fast track reviews of new rating assessments on port companies have begun; how many have been completed; and how many of these resulted in assessment reduction. [312093]

Barbara Follett: As at 18 January 2010, the fast track arrangements introduced by the Valuation Office Agency on 24 November 2008, have been applied to 799 proposals (appeals), of which 567 or 71 per cent. have been completed.

Of the 567 settled cases, 385 have been withdrawn or dismissed by independent valuation tribunal. The remaining 182 cases have been settled, either by agreement or by a decision of the valuation tribunal, resulting in a change to the rating assessment.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which ports re-assessments of rate demands on newly-rated port businesses have resulted in wharves being taken out of the assessments; and if he will extend the re-assessment process to the port of *(a)* Grimsby, *(b)* Immingham and *(c)* Goole. [312094]

Barbara Follett: Within the ports of Hull and Southampton, the Valuation Office Agency has taken action under the fast track arrangements, which has resulted in some of the wharves which had been separately assessed under the ports review being merged back into the main port assessments from 1 April 2005. This is the result of new evidence becoming available which supports these changes.

The Valuation Office Agency continues to pursue resolution of these issues and keep ratepayers informed at other ports—this includes Grimsby, Immingham and Goole.

Where changes have not been made this is either because the facts do not support an alteration of the rating lists or the parties have not agreed the facts that may still prove material to any such decision.

Non-domestic Rates: Shops

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what method was used to assess the rateable value of a high street shop for the purposes of calculating the business rate to come into effect from 1 April 2010. [311052]

Barbara Follett: High street shops have been valued by application of the rental comparative method of valuation using rates per square metre derived from local rental evidence. It is widely accepted that this is the most suitable approach for the analysis and valuation of standard shop units.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

In the last five years, alongside rising petrol prices and increasing turnover, the rents paid on many petrol filling stations has grown. It is only fair to all ratepayers this is reflected in rate bills. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on business properties facing increases.

Non-domestic Rates: Supermarkets

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what formula was used to assess the rateable value of a supermarket convenience store for the purpose of calculating the new business rate for such a store from 1 April 2010. [311081]

Barbara Follett: Convenience stores have not been valued by formula; they have been valued by the rental comparative method.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Paper

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 390W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much his Department spent on photocopier paper in the latest year for which figures are available. [311847]

Barbara Follett: During the 12 months ending December 2009 the Department has spent £88,289.68 on photocopier paper.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much net revenue has been raised in local authority parking charges, fees and fines in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms based on 2010 prices in each year since 1997-98. [312005]

Barbara Follett: The net revenue income on total parking services in England in cash and real terms (at 2008-09 prices) in each year since 1997-98 is tabled as follows.

		£ million
	Net revenue income on parking services	
	Cash value	Real terms (at 2008-09 prices)
1997-98	222.8	290.0
1998-99	247.2	315.1
1999-2000	286.9	358.6
2000-01	315.5	389.3
2001-02	342.7	413.6
2002-03	380.2	444.5
2003-04	439.1	499.3
2004-05	455.7	504.1
2005-06	483.6	525.1
2006-07	483.1	509.6
2007-08	515.8	528.8
2008-09	490.1	490.1

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns from 1997-98 to 2008-09.

Parking services includes both on-street and off-street parking services.

Net revenue income is defined here as income from sales, fees and charges (eg parking charges, penalty charge notice income) plus other (non-grant) income less the cost of running parking services including staffing costs.

From 2003-04 onwards the information is collected on a Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 basis. Comparison between FRS 17 and Non-FRS17 information may not be valid.

Public Sector

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 30 July 2009, on the Total Place initiative, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report conducted by Deloitte for the Leicester and Leicestershire Total Place pilot. [311517]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A copy of the Deloitte research report 'Measuring the Workload: Public Sector Performance Reporting and Inspection Regimes in Leicester' will be placed in the Library.

Regional Planning and Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role regional development agencies have in respect of regional spatial strategies; and what timetable has been set for the implementation of the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 which relate to local planning. [311663]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Regional Planning Bodies are currently required to consult Regional Development Agencies before submitting a draft Regional Spatial Strategy to the Secretary of State. The planning elements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 will commence on 1 April 2010.

TREASURY

Budgets

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to make his next Budget Statement. [311706]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood) on 13 January, *Official Report*, column 1050W.

Council Tax

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of *(a)* providing a two year grant to local authorities worth 2.5 per cent. of council tax, on condition that those authorities do not increase council tax bills for those years and *(b)* providing ongoing compensation for local authorities for the resulting permanent reduction in their council tax receipts. [304448]

Mr. Byrne: It is estimated that it would cost £650 million in year one and £1,320 million in year two to reimburse each authority for the income forgone by not increasing their Band D council tax by 2.5 per cent. in each year.

These figures cover all local authorities, police authorities and fire and rescue authorities in England. Responsibility for council tax and other local authority matters in Scotland and Wales rests with the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government.

It is assumed that year one refers to the next full financial year (2010-11) and year two to 2011-12. This calculation assumes that local authorities freeze their council tax, and in year two are also compensated for the fact that their council tax base did not increase in year one. It is also assumed that reductions in tax receipts, compared to the case if this policy were not implemented, are completely offset by reductions in local authority self-financed expenditure.

(b) As authorities Band D council tax levels would have been higher in the absence of this policy it would be necessary to provide ongoing compensation, estimated at £1,320 million per annum, to leave authorities in the position in which they would otherwise have been.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306076]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information relating to financial years prior to 2005-06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For information on 2005-06 and 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 384W.

The Treasury purchased one plasma screen television in 2008-09 at a cost of £2,430.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many iPODs have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311902]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: None.

Housing: Leaseback Arrangements

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many sale and rent back transactions of domestic properties have been recorded by the Financial Services Authority in each of the last 10 years. [311707]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Operational issues are a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which is independent of Government.

The FSA has started gathering data on the number of sale and rent back agreements entered into by regulated firms since the outset of the interim regime in July 2009. However, figures are not available at this early stage.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the revenue implications of the introduction of the transferable nil-rate band for inheritance tax. [311215]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* Estimates of the revenue implications of the introduction of the transferable nil-rate band for inheritance tax can be found in table A.2 of Budget 2008, available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_chaptera.pdf

Landfill Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the High Court ruling in the case of the Waste Recycling Group *v.* HM Revenue and Customs on landfill tax. [309514]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The effect of the Court of Appeal's judgment in the Waste Recycling Group case was to reduce the revenue yield from landfill tax and render certain waste materials non-taxable, even though they have a detrimental environmental impact. We estimate that around £300 million will be repaid on related claims for periods before 1 September 2009. The Exchequer could also have lost as much as £60 million this financial year and a further £140 million for each subsequent year, if the Government had not made the legislative changes to the landfill tax introduced on 1 September 2009. These changes brought uses of waste materials covered by the Court of Appeal judgment back within the scope of the tax.

Opposition

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many man-hours were spent by staff in his Department undertaking cost analysis of Opposition policies over the last 12 months; and at what cost. [308574]

David Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hours have been spent by his Department's officials on the production of costings of opposition party policies in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [311654]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There have been long-standing arrangements under successive administrations applying to the costing of policies and pledges of Opposition parties. Information relating to time spent by Treasury officials in undertaking analysis, including costs analyses, is not held in a disaggregated form.

Share Fisherman's Scheme: Duty

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much duty has been collected at each location from the Share Fishermen's Scheme in each of the last five years. [311962]

Mr. Timms: Payments received under the Share Fisherman's Scheme in the last five years are provided in the following table.

£

	England, Wales and Northern Ireland	*Scotland*
2005	1,510,180	4,636,486
2006	1,594,124	4,804,904
2007	1,924,492	4,540,353
2008	2,088,202	4,057,633
2009	1,854,100	3,051,789

Taxation: Debts

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of winding-up petitions of companies have been lodged by HM Revenue and Customs since 1 April 2008; and how much debt is owed to the Exchequer through such petitions. [311422]

Mr. Timms: The number of winding up petitions filed in England and Wales by HM Revenue and Customs from 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2009 was around 5,800 which equates to around 30 per cent. of those lodged overall.

The information on the value of debt contained within those petitions is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment was made of the effects of the implementation of the Joint Statement between HM Revenue and Customs and the Gambling Commission in relation to amusement machines which offer games designed to look like recognised games of chance on *(a)* the revenue collected by the Exchequer in relation to these amusement machines, *(b)* the amusement and pub sectors and *(c)* the traditional British seaside economy; who was consulted on the terms of the joint statement before it was made; and what assessment has been made of whether the terms of the joint statement comply with the Hampton principles of better regulation. [310569]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HMRC is under an obligation to apply existing legislation. The joint statement was prepared with the Gambling Commission and clarifies existing legislation; therefore, no impact assessment was required or done. HMRC is not required to and did not assess whether the joint statement complies with the Hampton principles of better regulation.

Valuation Office: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 204W, on council tax: Valuation Office Agency, whether the Government have taken a decision on the recommendation to establish a statutory information gateway between the Agency and billing authorities. [308840]

Ian Pearson: Before the recommendation on the information gateway can be implemented, the costs and benefits must be considered and the opportunity for enabling legislation must be identified. This work is ongoing.

Valuation Office: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 30 of the Valuation Office Agency's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, what the reasons are for the increase in the salary of the then Chief Executive from 2007-08 to 2008-09. [308350]

Ian Pearson: The VOA chief executive's base pay increased by 3.4 per cent. between 2007-08 and 2008-09. The overall salary including bonus increased by 15.4 per cent., with the remainder of the increase being accounted for by a higher non- consolidated performance related award in 2008-09 than 2007-08.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the current salary is of the chief executive of the Valuation Office Agency. [308351]

Ian Pearson: The base pay of the current VOA chief executive is in the band £100,00 to £105,000.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of families in each ward of Lewes constituency in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit. [311175]

Mr. Timms: A number of the electoral wards within Lewes constituency are also part of other parliamentary constituencies within the local authority of Lewes. Therefore the following table shows, for each ward within the local authority of Lewes, as at 1 December 2009, estimates of the number of households benefiting from tax credits. Due to small sample sizes, separate information on the number of households receiving working tax credits and child tax credits in each ward is not shown.

In addition, estimates of the number of families benefiting in each local authority and parliamentary constituency are provided in the HM Revenue and Customs snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, December 2009", available at:

> http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Ward	*Number of households in receipt of tax credits*[1]
Barcombe and Hamsey	—
Chailey and Wivelsfield	300
Ditchling and Westmeston	—
East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs	500
Kingston	—
Lewes Bridge	500
Lewes Castle	500
Lewes Priory	600
Newhaven Denton and Meeching	1,000
Newhaven Valley	500
Newick	—
Ouse Valley and Ringmer	500
Peacehaven East	500
Peacehaven North	500
Peacehaven West	300
Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St. John (Without)	—
Seaford Central	400
Seaford East	300
Seaford North	500
Seaford South	200
Seaford West	300

[1] Due to small sample sizes, the figures for some wards are not shown.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria his Department uses in deciding whether to write off tax credit overpayment debts for the tax years 2003-04 and 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [311393]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Amber Valley (Judy Mallaber) on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1516W.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Central Office of Information press release of 22 April 2008, what estimate has been made of the monetary value of contracts to be let under the *(a)* Gypsies and Travellers and *(b)* Refugees and Asylum Seekers elements of the Central Office of Information's Marketing Aimed at Culturally Diverse Audiences Framework; what contracts have been awarded under those elements of the framework; in respect of which public bodies they have been let; and what the monetary value of contracts let under the Framework Agreement is. [311804]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 18 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [311804] asking which public relations companies were awarded contracts arising from the COI Framework Agreement with the contract reference 2007/S 156-194886.

A copy of the information requested from the framework is given below;

a) Defra Horse ID Passports-Gypsies & Travellers £40,000 (Linstock Communications)

b) Office of National Statistics-Census-Gypsies & Travellers £45,000 (Linstock Communications)

.FCO AVR-Refugees & Asylum Seekers £21,862 (Rich Visions)

Cinemas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cinemas have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed since 1997 according to Office of National Statistics' records of enterprise deaths and births. [312046]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many cinemas have (a) opened and (b) closed since 1997 according to the Office of National Statistics' records of enterprise deaths and births. I am replying in his absence. (312046)

Figures provided are at the enterprise level. The enterprise is the smallest combination or legal units that is an organisational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. It carries out one or more activities at one or more locations, and may be a sole legal unit.

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on business births and deaths for the Motion Picture Projection industry in the UK. Local units which are part of an enterprise (e.g. individual cinemas which are part of a chain) are not available from Business Demography, and therefore are not included in the figures.

Motion Picture Projection

	Births	*Deaths*
2002	25	15
2003	25	25
2004	30	25
2005	15	25
2006	15	25
2007	20	25
2008	20	30

Departmental Advertising

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Prime Minister's Office has spent on advertising in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [302321]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office has not spent any money on advertising.

Employment: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* employed in North Wales in each of the last three years. [311720]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were (a) unemployed and (b) employed in North Wales in each of the last three years. I am replying in his absence. (311720)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

For the purpose of this question North Wales has been defined as the local authorities of Ynys Mon, Conwy, Gwynedd, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Table 1 shows the number of people who were (a) unemployed and (b) employed in North Wales in the 12 months ending June 2009, the latest period for which data is available and the 12 months ending in the June of the previous two years.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in the table.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people unemployed and employed in North Wales[1] in each of the last three years

Thousand

12 months ending	*Employed*	*Unemployed*
June 2007	310	14
June 2008	316	15
June 2009	*312	**18

[1] North Wales is defined as the local authorities Ynys Mon, Conwy, Gwynedd, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

Guide to Quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Government Departments: ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Heavy Hitter Programme Delivery Director Service has cost; which IT projects each consultant worked on; and what payments have been made to each consultant for Work Undertaken in Connection with the programme. [312370]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has not deployed a heavy hitter service within the Department. Other than the senior appointments overseen by the Government's chief information officer, the decision as to the deployment of the service within individual departments is up to individual chief information officers or senior responsible owners of projects.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Government services are available exclusively via the internet. [311759]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office does not currently hold a list of all Government services available exclusively via the internet.

However, all Government Departments have committed to producing channel strategies for service delivery by March 2010. These strategies will include plans for shifting each of their major public facing services to online channels.

The Cabinet Office is also working with departments to explore how the exploitation of digital technologies in delivery can be accelerated as set out in the recent Smarter Government paper.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other types of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from her Department; and if she will make a statement; [309368]

(2) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format by her Department of each security classification have been submitted to the Iraq Inquiry; and if she will make a statement; [309370]

(3) whether any *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format sought from her Department by the Iraq Inquiry have not been disclosed owing to the Government's obligations to foreign governments or international bodies; and if she will make a statement; [310185]

(4) how many and what proportion of the *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided to it by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [310193]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W, by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office my right hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith).

Personation: Financial Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many and what proportion of cases of identity theft took place following a payment initially made by *(a)* debit card, *(b)* credit card, *(c)* online transaction other than bank transfer, *(d)* bank transfers, *(e)* cash payment and *(f)* another form of payment in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [310477]

(2) how many and what proportion of payments made in the UK that were made by *(a)* debit card, *(b)* credit card, *(c)* online transaction other than bank transfer, *(d)* bank transfer, *(e)* cash payment and *(f)* another form of payment resulted in identity theft in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [310478]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

No such data exist.

Post Offices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many post office branches have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed since 1997 according to the Office of National Statistics' records of enterprise deaths and births. [311710]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many post office branches have (a) opened and (b) closed since 1997 according to the Office of National Statistics' records of enterprise deaths and births. I am replying in his absence (311710)

Business Demography provides information at the enterprise level. The enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. It carries out one or more activities at one or more locations, and may be a sole legal unit.

Information on individual post offices (local units at geographically identified sites) are not available from this data source, since post offices are local units belonging to an enterprise. Although in some instances a post office combined with a shop can be classified to retail, it is impossible to identify these cases from the data.

Private Life: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what statistics the Office for National Statistics collates on relationship breakdown; and at what geographic level such data is maintained. [312049]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your request asking what statistics the Office for National Statistics collates on relationship breakdown; and at what geographic level such data is maintained. I am replying in his absence. (312049)

Relationship breakdown may either occur through divorce or separation, where the latter can apply to either married or cohabiting partnerships. Although statistics are available for divorces in the UK, figures on separation are not. This is because nationally representative statistical information on separations would be difficult to collect routinely in any administrative or survey source.

Divorce statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) based upon information supplied to ONS by the courts in England and Wales. The fact that a divorce has taken place in a court in a particular region does not mean that either one or both parties are resident there. Therefore, divorce statistics have been historically presented at a national level only for England and Wales.

Divorce statistics for Scotland are published by the General Register Office for Scotland, and divorce statistics for Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. A summary of divorce statistics for the constituent countries of the UK is available in the latest edition of Population Trends (Population Trends 138 - Winter 2009, Table 2.1: Vital statistics summary, pp.67-68), available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/
Pop-trends-winter09.pdf

Public Houses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public houses have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed since 1997 according to Office of National Statistics' records of enterprise deaths and births. [312047]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many public houses have (a) opened and (b) closed since 1997 according to the Office of National Statistics' records of enterprise deaths and births. I am replying in his absence. (312047)

Figures provided are at the enterprise level. The enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. It carries out one or more activities at one or more locations, and may be a sole legal unit.

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on business births and deaths for public houses in the UK. Local units which are part of an enterprise (e.g. individual public houses which are part of a chain) are not available from Business Demography, and therefore are not included in the figures.

Public houses

	Births	*Deaths*
2002	10,285	7,810
2003	9,805	9,585
2004	9,190	10,080
2005	8,810	9,080
2006	8,150	7,915
2007	8,220	7,905
2008	6,565	7,515

Public Sector: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 867-8W, on the Central Office of Information: publications, what the purpose is of the publication How Public Sector Advertising Works; how many copies have been *(a)* distributed and *(b)* sold; and what income the Exchequer has received from sales. [311428]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 15 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI sales of the COI book, How Public Sector Advertising Works (311428).

The purpose of the book is to provide an overview of how Public Service Advertising works.

The book also explains what effectiveness means in terms of saving money, saving lives or changing behaviour.

To date 90 per cent. of the copies produced have been sold or distributed.

The project had a breakeven target and was not intended to generate an income above this from sales.

Sir Christopher Kelly

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what remunerated positions Sir Christopher Kelly holds apart from his chairmanship of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; and whether Sir Christopher is required to declare to her Department the amount of remuneration he receives from such positions. [311739]

Tessa Jowell: The chairman and members of the Committee on Standards in Public Life are required to register any private interest which might influence their judgment or which could be perceived to do so.

The register published by the Committee provides details of all remunerated positions currently held by Sir Christopher Kelly.

A copy is available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed at:

http://www.public-standards.gov.uk/
Register_of_Interests.html

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: Sea

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the state of climate science research on the effect of climate change on changes in sea level; what projections he made of changes to sea level by 2100; and if he will make a statement. [311274]

Joan Ruddock: The prediction of sea level rise is at the forefront of scientific research. While prediction of the component from thermal expansion of the ocean is well understood, the contribution from polar ice sheets represents a major source of uncertainty, resulting in a wide range of projections of sea level rise.

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (2007) estimated that the contribution to globally averaged sea level rise by the end of the century from thermal expansion would be in the range 18 to 59 cm, with up to a further 10 to 20 cm coming from the melting of ice sheets, but that higher values could not be excluded. Since then the literature has suggested that values for the total globally averaged sea level rise are more likely to be in the range 60 to 100 cm, with some papers estimating values as high as 200 cm, although these are thought to be highly unlikely.

For the UK, the most comprehensive assessment of future sea level rise is published in UKCP09, which can be found at:

http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/content/view/825/518/

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how often his Department reviews its definition of fuel poverty. [310979]

Mr. Kidney: There are no plans to review the definition of fuel poverty.

Fuel Poverty: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in Bexleyheath and Crayford in fuel poverty. [310692]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 3,200 fuel poor households in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency.

Temperature

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the average temperature in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [311192]

Joan Ruddock: The Department obtains estimates of the average temperature in the UK from the National Climate Information Centre based at the Met Office, which makes these data along with regional values for months, seasons and years freely available from its website at:

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/datasets/index.html

The UK annual average temperatures in the last decade were:

	°C
2000	9.09
2001	8.84
2002	9.47
2003	9.50
2004	9.47
2005	9.45
2006	9.73
2007	9.59
2008	9.05
2009	9.16

The 2009 value is provisional and will be finalised once all data have been received and quality-controlled. The six years 2002-07 are the warmest six years on record since records began for the UK as a whole in 1914.

Winter Fuel Payments: Disabled

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to extend eligibility for the winter fuel payment to all families with children in receipt of the middle or higher rate of care disability living allowance or the higher rate of mobility disability living allowance. [311650]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over. There are no plans to alter the eligibility criteria.

Disability living allowance (DLA) is specifically designed to help meet the extra costs of disability, including heating.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 574W, on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, what steps he is taking to increase the transparency of the negotiations; and if he will make a statement. [311437]

Mr. Lammy: UK officials have consistently argued for more transparency in the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement negotiations and in bilateral discussions. As a result of our calls, and those of like-minded countries, the negotiating parties agreed to release a summary of the key elements being discussed. This can be found on the Intellectual Property Office website along with further information that we are able to disclose under the existing terms of the agreement and is updated regularly.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library the latest draft held by his Department of the *(a)* civil enforcement, *(b)* border measures, *(c)* criminal enforcement and *(d)* intellectual property rights enforcement section of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. [311446]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 18 January 2010]*: Although I am sympathetic to the view that ACTA negotiations should be more transparent and I have instructed my officials to press for more transparency, we are not in a position to place the drafts held by my Department in the Library.

As is common practice in trade negotiations, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) is taking place in confidence. Disclosure of any documents without the agreement of all our ACTA negotiating partners would damage the United Kingdom's international relations. This would harm our ability to protect, promote and secure an outcome in the UK's interest, and the premature release of documents that are not agreed and not fully developed may also have a negative effect on the Government's reputation.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which Ministers are given access to UK position papers on negotiations on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. [311447]

Mr. Lammy: I am the Minister responsible for Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). My officials regularly liaise with the officials from other Departments

(FCO, HMRC, MOJ, BIS) who keep their relevant Ministers within their Departments informed when necessary.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he next plans to meet *(a)* Ministerial colleagues, *(b)* officials from the Intellectual Property Office and *(c)* others to discuss the negotiation of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. [311448]

Mr. Lammy: I have no plans to meet with my ministerial colleagues to discuss the negotiation of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in the near future but they have been kept informed of developments. I will continue to discuss ACTA with officials whenever there are significant developments. I have discussed ACTA with EU partners in the past and will continue to do so when the opportunity arises.

Business Council for Britain

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Business Council for Britain has met; when it last met; what its membership is; how many officials have attended each of its meetings; and how much it has spent on *(a)* travel, *(b)* hospitality and *(c)* other expenses since June 2007. [311603]

Ian Lucas: The Business Council for Britain was established in June 2007 and has met formally nine times since then. The most recent meeting was on 2 December 2009. There are 16 members of the Business Council: Stephen Green (HSBC, Chair), Sir Richard Branson (Virgin), Damon Buffini (Permira), Cynthia Carroll (Anglo American), Tony Hayward (BP), Brent Hoberman (Mydeco), Sir Terry Leahy (Tesco), Ian Livingston (BT), Dick Olver (BAE Systems), Sir John Parker (National Grid), Sir John Rose (Rolls-Royce), Sir Stuart Rose (Marks & Spencer), Dame Marjorie Scardino (Pearson), Lord Sugar (Government Small Business Advisor), Paul Walsh (Diageo) and Andrew Witty (GlaxoSmithKline). Officials do not participate in the discussions at the Business Council meetings. The number of officials attending is always kept to a minimum, but varies. The Business Council has incurred a sum of £870 for hospitality, but no other costs for travel or other expenses.

Communication Service Providers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on consumer choice of making provision for consumer access to third-party communication providers from all *(a)* next generation and *(b)* other public communications networks. [311872]

Mr. Timms: I have made no such assessment. However, we are working with Ofcom to ensure the greatest consumer choice for Next Generation Access and expect all networks built using public funds to conform to an open access model, enabling third parties to offer services.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that all *(a)* next generation and *(b)* other public communications networks offer consumers equal access to third party service providers. [311873]

Mr. Timms: We are working with Ofcom to ensure the greatest consumer choice for Next Generation Access and expect all networks built using public funds to conform to an open access model, enabling third parties to offer services.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department are working on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement negotiations. [311442]

Mr. Lammy: The Intellectual Property Office has two officials working on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement under the direction of the Director of International Policy and the Chief Executive Officer. These officials co-ordinate the UK position with the support of lawyers and policy officials from across Government.

Electric Vehicles: Motorcycles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the merits of providing support to producers of electric motorcycles and mopeds. [310927]

Mr. Khan: have been asked to reply.

Passenger cars are by some distance the biggest source of emissions from road transport, forming almost 60 per cent. of total UK domestic $C0_2$ transport emissions compared to less than 1 per cent. by motorcycles. As such, the focus of government support is on cars where it will have the biggest impact on greenhouse gas emissions from road transport. We recognise that electric motorcycles offer environmental benefits compared to conventional motorcycles and they are already zero rated for VED purposes and exempt from fuel duty. We anticipate that electric motorbikes will be able to access the re-charging infrastructure installed as part of the £30 million Plugged in Places framework.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of undergraduates studying *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time were from low participation neighbourhoods in each of the last five years. [311120]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is provided in the table. Figures are provided for young (under 21) and mature (21 and over) part-time and full-time undergraduate entrants to higher education institutions in England, for the academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08. Figures for earlier academic years are not directly comparable, due to a change in the methodology used to calculate the proportion of students who are from low participation neighbourhoods.

Information for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from HESA in April.

Proportion of undergraduate entrants from low participation neighbourhoods, English higher education institutions, academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08

Percentage

	Part-time		*Full-time*	
Academic year	*Young*	*Mature*[1]	*Young*	*Mature*[1]
2006/07	13.0	6.7	10.1	12.0
2007/08	13.0	6.8	10.3	11.5

[1] The participation rate for mature entrants excludes students who have a previous HE qualification.

Note:

Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency Performance Indicators.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many school and sixth form college leavers went on to universities on average in each year in the period *(a)* 1981 to 1990, *(b)* 1991 to 2000 and *(c)* 2001 to 2009. [311122]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. This shows the number of 18-year-old undergraduate entrants, some of whom may not have attended schools or sixth form colleges. Figures are not available prior to 1994/95, and figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

UK domiciled 18-year-old undergraduate entrants UK higher education institutions[1] academic years 1994/95 to 2008/09

Academic year	*18-year-old entrants*
1994/95	120,105
1995/96	122,385
1996/97	129,115
1997/98	141,980
1998/99	142,835
1999/2000	140,645
2000/01	140,120
2001/02	147,780
2002/03	152,050
2003/04	154,400
2004/05	156,170
2005/06	171,310
2006/07	169,055
2007/08	169,550
2008/09	178,975

[1] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Finance

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much grant funding has been provided to higher education institutions by the *(a)* Arts and Humanities Research Council, *(b)* Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, *(c)* Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, *(d)* Economic and Social Research Council, *(e)* Medical Research Council, *(f)* Natural Environment Research Council, *(g)* Science and Technology Facilities Council and *(h)* Higher Education Funding Council for England in each of the last five years. [310665]

Mr. Lammy: The following table provides the details of the grant funding from the above bodies to higher education institutions (HEIs) for the five financial years from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Research Council academic grants to HEIs exclude studentships and doctoral training grants. Higher Education Funding Council for England total grant covers recurrent grant, non-recurrent grant, and other ring fenced allocations.

£000

Funding Body	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Arts and Humanities Research Council	29,008	31,373	44,706	56,786	60,475
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	129,812	136,921	170,730	176,892	199,756
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	262,513	311,304	367,314	476,485	522,855
Economic and Social Research Council	62,982	71,306	98,078	109,957	112,445
Medical Research Council	112,855	106,258	164,272	197,673	240,960
Natural Environment Research Council	42,029	40,185	46,442	70,069	74,098
Science and Technology Facilities Council	57,305	82,276	81,951	102,499	104,725
Higher Education Funding Council for England	6,090,210	6,745,006	6,944,354	7,342,935	7,515,183

Higher Education: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Lewes constituency attended university courses in each year since 1996-97. [311174]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is provided in the following table.

Enrolments[1] from Lewes constituency[2] UK Higher Education Institutions[3] academic years 1996/97 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Enrolments*
1996/97	2,000
1997/98	1,935
1998/99	2,070
1999/2000	2,065
2000/01	2,145
2001/02	2,135
2002/03	2,175
2003/04	2,255
2004/05	2,280
2005/06	2,310
2006/07	2,270
2007/08	2,235

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.
(3) Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated to higher education in Preston in each year since 1997. [311141]

Mr. Lammy: We do not hold this information in the form requested. However, the Higher Education Funding Council for England has allocated the following amounts to the University of Central Lancashire:

	£ million
1997/98	33.4
1998/99	37.9
1999/2000	42.7
2000/01	44.6
2001/02	48.5
2002/03	55.9
2003/04	60.3
2004/05	70.5
2005/06	80.0
2006/07	77.0
2007/08	75.9
2008/09	85.1
2009/10	86.9

Note:
These figures cover HEFCE grant allocations only and do not include other sources of public funding.

Higher Education: Research

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on *(a)* the Research Excellence Framework and *(b)* other proposed changes to arrangements for research funding. [311747]

Mr. Lammy: There is regular contact between officials in the Department and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

My Noble Friend the Secretary of State wrote to Tim Melville-Ross, chairman of HEFCE, on 22 December. He asked HEFCE to continue to develop proposals for the Research Excellence Framework, following the consultation which ended on 16 December and for their views on how along side our commitment to supporting research excellence, to achieve the presumption made clear in Higher Ambitions in favour of more, rather than less, research concentration, especially in the high cost, scientific disciplines.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what responses he has received from higher education institutions on his Department's proposed Research Excellence Framework. [311748]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has been consulting on their proposals for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) on behalf of the UK's funding bodies. HEFCE have received over 500 responses from a wide range of parties including many from Higher Education Institutions. The consultation closed on 16 December and I look forward to receiving HEFCE's analysis of the responses.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Pay

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 607-8W, on Learning and Skills Council for England: pay, what proportion of Learning and Skills Council staff received a bonus in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and how many such staff were responsible for overseeing (i) capital funding, (ii) Train to Gain and (iii) Adult Learner Responsive funding. [309518]

Kevin Brennan: Decisions about the payment of performance bonuses to staff are made by the Learning and Skills Council. Geoff Russell, the Council's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Postgraduate Education

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the number of universities which should be entitled to offer research courses leading to doctoral qualifications; and what assessment he has made of the effects of this policy on universities in the West Midlands. [311270]

Mr. Lammy: Any institution providing higher education which already has powers to award taught degrees is eligible to apply for powers to award research degrees.

This policy does not seek to create a specific number of HEIs with higher/research degree awarding powers, and each application is considered on its merits against detailed criteria which are available on the website of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There has been no assessment of this policy on institutions in the West Midlands.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which 10 parliamentary constituencies have received the most funding from his Department in respect of vocational training in the last 12 months. [304575]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the funding of post 16 further education (FE) and skills training delivered through FE colleges and training organisations in England. As set out my

Department's Skills Investment Strategy (November, 2009) funding for adult training places will increase by 3 per cent. to £3.5 billion in 2010-11.

Data on funding for training are not available on a parliamentary constituency basis, as the parliamentary constituency is not an administrative area. However, the LSC publishes funding allocations to FE colleges and training organisations organised by local authority. Full details are available on the LSC website under the following link:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/publications/latestdocuments/Detail.htm?id=38bb96be-953c-4c0c-998e-3162a0c844ae

The following table sets out the local authorities with the greatest adult funding allocations for 2008/09 academic year issued to FE colleges and training institutions based in that area. The actual amount invested will depend on demand from employers and learners.

Adult (aged 19 or over) funding allocations to FE colleges and training organisations summarised by local authority

Local authority[1]	*Total LSC allocation*[2] *(£ million)*
Birmingham	100.7
Westminster	58.6
Norfolk	56.8
Surrey	54.0
Cheshire	52.9
Sheffield	52.3
Lancashire	51.2
Manchester	50.2
Hampshire	48.2
Leeds	47.4

[1] The local authority in which the head office of the FE college or training organisation is based; some institutions will provide training across LA boundaries.

[2] Includes allocations for Adult Safeguarded Learning, Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive funding.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Child Care Vouchers

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents have received childcare vouchers *(a)* at the latest date for which information is available and *(b)* in each year since their introduction. [301886]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Published research, commissioned by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in 2006, by the National Centre for Social Research estimated that there were 174,000 users of child care vouchers available under Employer Supported Childcare (ESC) in late 2005. The full title of the NatCen report of 2006 is "Monitoring of the Reform of the Income Tax and National Insurance Rules for Employer Supported Childcare", and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report23-final.pdf

Information by year is not available, as HMRC does not collect data on the use of ESC.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the level of take-up of child trust funds was in households with children classified as economically deprived in the latest period for which figures are available; what research has been undertaken by his Department into levels of awareness of parents in such households of their entitlements under the Child Trust Fund programme; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the fund. [309988]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

All children born since 1 September 2002 that live in the UK and are not subject to immigration controls are eligible for a Child Trust Fund. If the child's parents or guardians do not open an account within a year HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will open one for them, ensuring that all eligible children get a Child Trust Fund.

The latest information published on Child Trust Fund parental opening rates, awareness levels and administration can be viewed on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

Included are data regarding the opening rates of accounts in families in receipt of the maximum child tax credit. The Government do not hold data on awareness levels broken down by socio-economic classification.

GCSE

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students of *(a)* white, *(b)* mixed race, *(c)* Asian, *(d)* Black and *(e)* Chinese ethnicity gained (i) five GCSEs including English and mathematic at grades A* to C, (ii) five GCSEs at grades A* to G and (iii) at least one key stage 4 pass in each year since 1997. [310561]

Mr. Coaker: Information on pupil attainment linked to their characteristics was not recorded before 2002, therefore the requested information for 1997 to 2001 is not available. All the requested information has been published for 2006 to 2009, with some elements published for earlier years.

The requested information for the years 2006 to 2009 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000900/SFR34_2009FinalUpdated.xls

The available information for 2005 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml

The available information for 2004 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml

The available information for the years 2002 and 2003 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml

Measure (i), five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C, is available for 2005-09.

Measure (ii), five GCSEs at grades A* to G, is available for 2002, 2003 and 2006 to 2009.

Measure (iii), at least one key stage 4 pass, is available for 2004-09.

In addition, the number of pupils achieving no GCSE passes is available for 2002 and 2003.

Primary Education: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from which line of Table 8.4 in his Department's 2009 annual report the £300 million funding for new primary school places announced on 30 November 2009 has been taken. [303981]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 December 2009]:* This funding will be provided from capital for investment in school buildings, which will include accumulated end year flexibility which is not reflected in Table 8.4. It is resource originally set aside in the event that school projects found it problematic to secure PFI funding. Although the start of 2009 was a challenging time for the PFI market, BSF schemes have not had to use these additional resources. Partnerships for Schools has closed 17 PFI deals since the beginning of this financial year so we have been able to free up the resource set aside and use it for other purposes.

Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 728W, on pupils exclusions: disadvantaged, what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2003. [311928]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 January 2010]:* Information is not available in the form requested.

Data on permanent and fixed period exclusions linked to free school meal eligibility are only available for secondary schools from 2005-06 onwards. This was extended to primary and special schools in 2006-07.

Pupils: Attendance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that attendance records of schools which open during extreme weather conditions are not compared unfavourably with schools which close in such conditions and are notionally recorded as having 100 per cent. attendance. [311368]

Mr. Coaker: Every lesson counts and it is right that schools should stay open during poor weather conditions where it is safe to do so. Those schools that remained open during the recent spell of poor weather should be commended for doing so.

It is for this reason that we are asking local authorities to ensure that schools are not penalised for remaining open during the recent snow and to make it clear that we expect authorities to take any increased absences due to the poor weather into consideration when looking at school absence figures—where the head teacher is able to provide suitable evidence.

The Pupil Registration Regulations 2006 are clear that where a school is open and pupils do not attend, their non-attendance has to be recorded whether it is due to the poor weather or for any other reason (e.g. illness, or being on holiday). While this will mean that those schools will have a higher absence rate than if they had been forced to close, head teachers should not take decisions about closing schools based on concerns about absence records. Their primary concern in such cases should be for the welfare of their pupils and staff.

The Department are currently looking at ways that absences due to exceptional circumstances, such as the recent poor weather conditions, can be reported and monitored within the school absence data. However, we will not be able to do this for the recent snow.

School Leaving

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of Key Stage 4 students went on to *(a)* education, *(b)* employment and *(c)* training in each year since 1997; and how many and what proportion were not in employment, education or training in the year after leaving school in each such year. [310559]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on destinations of Key Stage 4 (KS4) students does not exist in the form requested. The Department publishes an annual Statistical First Release "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England" which as well as containing estimates of participation rates, includes the Department's best estimate of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training. The participation estimates are presented by academic age. Estimates for 16-year-olds are a very close proxy for the destinations of KS4 students, but will include a small number of 16-year-olds who have not yet completed KS4 due to their repeating a year of learning. The estimates will also include those young people who entered the country, either from elsewhere in the UK or abroad, after KS4. The figures can be found on the DCSF website here under "additional information":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

It is important to note that the categories education, training and employment are not mutually exclusive. For instance, many young people in full time education, and the majority of those in training, are also employed.

Schools: Leeds

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that schools in Leeds that have opened during recent extreme weather conditions will not be penalised for student non-attendance during that period. [311379]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* Every lesson counts and it is right that schools should stay open during poor weather conditions where it is safe to do so. Those schools that remained open during the recent spell of poor weather should be commended for doing so.

It is for this reason that we are asking local authorities to ensure that schools are not penalised for remaining open during the recent snow and to make it clear that we expect authorities to take any increased absences due to the poor weather into consideration when looking at school absence figures—where the head teacher is able to provide suitable evidence.

The Pupil Registration Regulations 2006 are clear that where a school is open and pupils do not attend, their non-attendance has to be recorded whether it is due to the poor weather or for any other reason (e.g. illness, or being on holiday). While this will mean that those schools will have a higher absence rate than if they had been forced to close, head teachers should not take decisions about closing schools based on concerns about absence records. Their primary concern in such cases should be for the welfare of their pupils and staff.

The Department are currently looking at ways that absences due to exceptional circumstances, such as the recent poor weather conditions, can be reported and monitored within the school absence data. However, we will not be able to do this for the recent snow.

Schools: Snow and Ice

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it is his policy that where a school has remained open during the recent inclement weather those days should not be included in statistics on absenteeism; if he will advise education authorities accordingly; and if he will make a statement. [310837]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* Every lesson counts and it is right that schools should stay open during poor weather conditions where it is safe to do so. Those schools that remained open during the recent spell of poor weather should be commended for doing so.

It is for this reason that we are asking local authorities to ensure that schools are not penalised for remaining open during the recent snow and to make it clear that we expect authorities to take any increased absence due to the poor weather into consideration when looking at school absence figures—where the head teacher is able to provide suitable evidence.

The Pupil Registration Regulations 2006 are clear that where a school is open and pupils do not attend, their non-attendance has to be recorded whether it is due to the poor weather or for any other reason (e.g. illness, or being on holiday). While this will mean that those schools will have a higher absence rate than if they had been forced to close, head teachers should not take decisions about closing schools based on concerns about absence records. Their primary concern in such cases should be for the welfare of their pupils and staff.

The Department are currently looking at ways that absences due to exceptional circumstances, such as the recent poor weather conditions, can be reported and monitored within the school absence data. However, we will not be able to do this for the recent snow.

Young People: Unemployment

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what methodology his Department used to determine the number of people not in education, employment or training expected to start courses in January as part of the January Guarantee. [309211]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 589W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

People Trafficking

8. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial assistance his Department has provided to overseas non-governmental organisations to reduce numbers of people already trafficked to and then deported from the UK from being re-trafficked to the UK. [311682]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID does not provide assistance to overseas non-governmental organisations to prevent people from being re-trafficked to the UK. However, we do support projects which are tackling human trafficking, forced labour and child labour.

Sri Lanka

10. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to development programmes in Sri Lanka since December 2004; and if he will make a statement. [311684]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since the financial year 2004-05 to 2008-09, DFID has provided £28.07 million of bilateral assistance to Sri Lanka. During the same period, DFID has also provided £11.54 million of humanitarian assistance. I refer my hon. Friend to my statement of 24 November 2009 for an assessment of the current humanitarian situation.

Haiti

11. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to meet relevant non-governmental organisations, to discuss humanitarian aid to Haiti. [311685]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I held a first meeting with NGOs on the morning of 14 January to discuss Haiti.

My right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Mike Foster held a second meeting with NGOs yesterday 19 January.

The scenes of devastation in Haiti are almost unimaginable. The need for relief is desperate. This is the time for the international community to come together and support the people of Haiti in their hour of need.

EU: Aid

12. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's aid delivered through the EU; and if he will make a statement. [311686]

Mr. Thomas: Analysis from the OECD's Donor Assistance Committee, Oxfam, the House of Lords and our own staff indicate that the effectiveness of Commission aid has improved considerably.

St. Helena: Airport

13. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on proposals for an airport for St. Helena. [311688]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) held a public consultation on options for access to St. Helena from 9 April-31 July 2009. The Consultation Report contains an annex listing all representations made on the issue of an airport for St. Helena. This report is available in the House of Commons Library and on the DFID website;

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/where-we-work/overseas-territories/st-helena/

Overseas Development Assistance

14. **Chloe Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to increase transparency in respect of his Department's overseas development assistance. [311689]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to increasing the transparency of its aid programme. We have already implemented our White Paper commitment to publish a database of DFID projects on our website. We continue to lead the International Aid Transparency Initiative to enhance the transparency of all global donor aid programmes.

Iraq: Overseas Aid

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to the Iraqi government to increase the water flow into the Hawizeh marshes. [311687]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not providing any assistance directly to the Iraqi Government to increase the water flow into the Hawizeh marshes. However, the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, to which the UK has contributed £70 million, has supported an $11 million UN Environment Programme project to support environmental management of the Iraqi Marshlands.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 21 January 2010

TRANSPORT

Aircraft

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the average weight of aeroplanes departing from UK airports in each of the last five years. [312502]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which websites his Department's staff are prevented from accessing from departmental networked computers. [311841]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has an acceptable use policy that restricts unsuitable websites. It is not practical to list all individual blocked websites due to the numbers involved, but the main categories blocked by the Department and its agencies are as follows:

Adult or sexually explicit (including pornography, nudity and intimate apparel)

Crime and violence (including weapons, hate crime, historical revisionism and profanity)

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Gambling

Personal (including dating, social networking, chat, messaging, lifestyle and auctions)

Remote proxies

Entertainment/culture (including internet TV/radio, streaming media and media downloads/sharing).

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2008-09; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300566]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given today to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott), which shows how many staff received a non-consolidated variable pay award, what proportion of the total work force they represented and what the total amount of non-consolidated variable payments was.

The largest single non-consolidated variable payment was £15,000.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2003. [306462]

Chris Mole: An element of the Department for Transport's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The following table details how many people were eligible for and received a non-consolidated variable pay award, awarded under the Department for Transport's standard pay and performance management process for the last six performance years. It also details the wages and salaries as published in the departmental resource accounts.

Performance year	*Number of staff*	*Total number of awards*	*Value of non-consolidated performance payments (£)*	*Wages and salaries for the year (£)*	*Non-consolidated performance payments as percentage of wages and salaries*
2003-04	10,338	4,814	2,020,828	358,466,000	0.56
2004-05	11,151	5,537	1,881,308	358,165,000	0.53
2005-06	19,239	13,682	8,212,780	439,645,000	1.87
2006-07	19,262	14,906	9,820,319	496,044,000	1.98
2007-08	18,598	13,472	10,285,859	517,884,000	1.99
2008-09	19,451	13,192	11,797,001	535,555,000	2.20

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307102]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given today to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott), which shows how many non-consolidated variable pay awards were paid, and what the total amount of non-consolidated variable payments was for the last three years.

Driving Offences: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of 17 to 21-year-olds using motor vehicles on the road network without insurance in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area. [312479]

Paul Clark: No information is held on uninsured driving on a constituency or local authority area basis.

First Capital Connect: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the earliest date is on which the First Capital Connect franchise can be terminated, assuming no exceptional intervention powers are invoked by his Department. [312500]

Chris Mole: The First Capital Connect franchise can run until 31 March 2015. The Secretary of State may exercise an option to serve notice on First Capital Connect for the franchise to end at a notified date between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2015. The franchise also contains provisions where the Secretary of State may terminate the franchise for an event of default.

Independent Penalty Fares Appeals Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to *(a)* cease allowing the Independent Penalty Fares Appeals Service (IPFAS) to be a subsidiary business of Southeastern and *(b)* make IPFAS wholly independent of the train operating companies. [311940]

Chris Mole: There are no proposals to alter the status of the Independent Penalty Fares Appeals Service. Its accounts and management are wholly separate to Southeastern. There are two penalty fares appeal bodies. Their revenue is not dependent on success or failure of appeals. Each body is paid a specified amount for appeals, regardless of the outcome. Appeals are regularly successful.

National Air Traffic Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department plans to sell off Government shares in National Air Traffic Services; and if he will make a statement. [312474]

Paul Clark: On 8 December the Government published the Operational Efficiency Programme: Asset Portfolio.

The portfolio includes a section on NATS which notes that in light of the impending expiry of the restrictions on the transfer of shares for NATS, it is appropriate for Government to engage with other shareholders who are likely to consider the shareholding options available to them.

No decision has been made by Government with regards to reducing their shareholding. Any options considered would be required to best meet the needs of the Company and its workforce, as well as shareholders.

Official Cars

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 79WS, on the cost of ministerial cars for 2008-09, how many cars there were in 1996-97 for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior civil servants; and what the annual cost was of providing the service. [312463]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency was formed in April 1997. Information before that date is not available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many journeys and what percentage of miles were made by each type of vehicle on *(a)* motorways and *(b)* dual carriageways in the UK in each of the last three years. [312493]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold data on the number of journeys made each year by type of vehicle on motorways or dual carriageways.

Traffic data on dual carriageways are not available for Northern Ireland. However, the percentage of miles driven by type of vehicle in Great Britain on motorways and dual carriageways in 2006, 2007 and 2008 is shown in the following table.

Percentage

	Cars and taxis	*Motorcycles*	*Buses and coaches*	*Light vans*	*Goods vehicles*	*Pedal cycles*	*All vehicles*
2006							
Motorways	14.5	0.1	0.1	2.4	2.4	0.0	19.4
Dual carriageways	14.4	0.2	0.1	2.2	1.3	—	18.2
All other roads	49.7	0.8	0.8	8.2	2.0	0.9	62.4
All roads	78.6	1.0	1.1	12.7	5.7	0.9	100.0
2007							
Motorways	14.5	0.1	0.1	2.4	2.4	0.0	19.4
Dual carriageways	14.1	0.2	0.1	2.3	1.3	—	18.0
All other roads	49.6	0.8	0.9	8.5	2.0	0.8	62.6
All roads	78.1	1.1	1.1	13.2	5.7	0.8	100.0
2008							
Motorways	14.6	0.1	0.1	2.4	2.4	0.0	19.5

Percentage

	Cars and taxis	*Motorcycles*	*Buses and coaches*	*Light vans*	*Goods vehicles*	*Pedal cycles*	*All vehicles*
Dual carriageways	14.2	0.1	0.1	2.3	1.3	—	18.0
All other roads	49.5	0.8	0.8	8.6	2.0	0.9	62.5
All roads	78.2	1.0	1.0	13.3	5.6	0.9	100.0

'—' = Negligible (less than half the final digit shown)

Source:

National Road Traffic Survey, DFT.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* percentage of UK-registered and *(b)* number of foreign-registered vehicles of each type which have used (i) motorways and (ii) dual carriageways in the last year. [312503]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold data on either the percentage of vehicles that have used motorways or dual carriageways, or the number of foreign registered vehicles that have used motorways or dual carriageways.

Roads: Accidents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of drivers in each five-year age cohort were involved in a road traffic accident causing *(a)* death and *(b)* serious injury in each of the last three years for which figures are readily available. [311727]

Paul Clark: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Drivers[1] involved in (a) fatal and (b) serious[2] reported road accidents by age group: GB 2006-08

Number of drivers

	Fatal accidents			*Serious accidents*		
Age of driver	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Under 17	14	8	7	66	41	50
17-19	363	331	268	2,566	2,382	2,178
20-24	562	483	384	3,826	3,813	3,497
25-29	440	371	367	3,363	3,121	3,006
30-34	368	351	300	3,072	2,917	2,587
35-39	406	394	310	3,448	3,103	2,862
40-44	414	394	324	3,266	3,011	2,868
45-49	351	347	321	2,505	2,500	2,407
50-54	269	307	238	1,980	2,040	1,887
55-59	304	258	172	1,844	1,738	1,591
60-64	212	191	180	1,335	1,381	1,380
65-69	111	117	103	816	782	763
70-74	86	85	77	644	573	605
75-79	63	69	78	451	479	450
80-84	55	43	55	299	319	327
85-89	35	38	20	148	139	169
90-94	2	6	9	18	23	23
95+	2	1	1	1	2	3

[1] Car, goods vehicle, bus and coach drivers.

[2] Accidents in which at least one person was seriously injured but no person was killed.

Drivers[1] involved in (a) fatal and (b) serious[2] reported road accidents per 100,000 driving licence holders[3] by age group: GB 2006-08

Rate per 100,000 driving licence holders

	Fatal accidents			*Serious accidents*		
Age of Driver	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
17-19	24	20	17	167	146	137
20-24	19	16	12	126	123	110
25-29	14	12	11	107	99	92
30-34	11	11	9	89	88	79
35-39	10	10	8	87	80	74
40-49	10	10	8	76	72	68
50-59	9	9	7	61	61	56
60+	7	7	6	47	45	42

[1] Car, goods vehicle, bus and coach drivers.

[2] Accidents in which at least one person was seriously injured but no person was killed.

[3] Full and provisional driving licences.

Source:

National Travel Survey

It is not possible to identify if the same driver was involved in more than one accident so there may be some double counting in the number of drivers involved in accidents. This does not take into account people that drive without a licence, driving licence holders that do not drive or those under 17 years of age.

Due to the small sample size used in the National Travel Survey some age groups are shown in age bands larger than five years in the second table.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children who were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured in road accidents involving drivers who were under the influence of (A) drink, (B) drugs and (C) both drink and drugs in each of the last three years. [311866]

Paul Clark: The estimated number of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children who were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured in reported drink drive accidents in each of the last three years with data available is shown in the following table:

Estimated[1] (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured drink drive casualties: GB 2005-07

	2005	2006	2007
(i) Killed			
(a) Adult[2]	550	550	410
(b) Child[3]	10	10	0
All ages[4]	550	560	410
(ii) Seriously injured			
(a) Adult[2]	1,950	1,860	1,700
(b) Child[3]	90	70	70
All ages[4]	2,090	1,970	1,760

[1] Estimates are based on breath test and coroners' data. They are rounded to the nearest 10 so columns may not add up to their total.
[2] Aged 16+ years.
[3] Aged 0-15 years.
[4] Includes cases where age was not recorded.

The number of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children who were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured in road accidents where "driver impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)" was reported as a contributory factor in each of the last three years with data available, and the number where a driver also had "impaired by alcohol" reported as a contributory factor, are shown in the following table:

Reported (a) adult and (b) child road casualties who were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured in road accidents where "impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)" and "impaired by alcohol" were reported as contributory factors[1]: GB 2006-08

Contributory factor	*Year of accident*		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)			
(i) Killed			
(a) Adult[2]	62	70	57
(b) Child[3]	2	1	3
All ages[4]	64	71	60
(ii) Seriously injured			
(a) Adult[2]	246	247	265
(b) Child[3]	9	13	11
All ages[4]	262	261	280

Reported (a) adult and (b) child road casualties who were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured in road accidents where "impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)" and "impaired by alcohol" were reported as contributory factors[1]: GB 2006-08

Contributory factor	*Year of accident*		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Driver "impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)" and "impaired by alcohol"			
(i) Killed			
(a) Adult[2]	27	34	27
(b) Child[3]	0	0	2
All ages[4]	27	34	29
(ii) Seriously injured			
(a) Adult[2]	94	121	121
(b) Child[3]	2	7	9
All ages[4]	99	129	132

[1] Only includes accidents where a police officer attended the scene and reported a contributory factor.
[2] Aged 16+ years.
[3] Aged 0-15 years.
[4] Includes cases where age was not recorded.

Contributory factors reflect the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting, and where some factors may have contributed to the cause of an accident it may be difficult for a police officer attending the scene after the accident to identify them, so these factors may be under-reported. Not all reported road accidents are included in the contributory factor analysis, only those where a police officer attended the scene and at least one contributory factor was reported.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 336W, on rolling stock, how many vehicles were offered to the Department where the purchase option was not pursued and the vehicles were subsequently exported. [311166]

Chris Mole: Although sale of the vehicles is a matter for the rolling stock leasing companies I am aware that:

HSBC Rail (UK) Limited exported 77 Mark 2 vehicles (11 in 2006, 26 in 2007 and 40 in 2008). These vehicles were built by British Rail in the early 1970s, were around 30 years old when taken out of traffic and replaced by new Voyager and Pendolino trains from 2000, and were around 35 years old when offered to the Department.

Porterbrook sold 26 Class 87 locomotives to a UK company who subsequently sold them to Bulgaria, these locomotives also date from the early 1970s, were replaced by new Pendolino trains from 2002, and were around 35 years old when offered to the Department.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on behavioural research consultants in the last five financial years. [310970]

Jim Knight: The information requested could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in her Department she plans to outsource in the next five years. [310975]

Jim Knight: My Department's policy is to rigorously and continuously examine all of our activities and to apply our "contestability" policy which offers the opportunity to use external provision, using competition, to create incentives for continuous improvement in the cost and quality of services and to provide customers with greater choice.

Plans to determine the most efficient delivery model for the Department and its constituent agencies are therefore subject to this continuous review and the optimum balance of in-house provision and outsourced providers is sought.

Departmental Records

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of paper files held in her Department and its agencies; what the annual cost to each of monitoring a paper filing system is; what consideration she has given to alternative filing arrangements; and whether any changes to present practices are planned. [307037]

Jim Knight: A full record storage and retrieval service is currently delivered to DWP by Capita plc. The current file-holding is in the region of 58 million files and the annual contract cost for 2008-09 was £21.2 million. In the main these paper documents form the legal basis on which applications to benefit are determined and must be retained for audit, review, appeal and other business related functions while the claim to benefit is current and for a period after termination of claim.

DWP is actively engaged in a range of initiatives to reduce paper e.g. a scanning solution for documents received from clients. These scanned images will be stored in and retrieved from a single Departmental Document Repository System.

Jobcentre Plus has also set up a Paper Reduction Programme to consider opportunities to reduce the amount of paper that is used and moved around its business.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will consider the merits of automatically placing individuals with *(a)* Huntington's disease and *(b)* certain other conditions on employment support allowance. [312484]

Jonathan Shaw: Entitlement to employment and support allowance does not depend on an individual's diagnosis or condition, but on how severely a condition impacts on an individual's ability to function. This is in recognition of the fact that individuals with the same condition can experience varying functional effects. Accordingly, the assessment for benefit entitlement accurately identifies individuals for the most appropriate benefit and support, by focusing on the functional effects of a condition.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the criteria are for qualification for employment support allowances. [312485]

Jonathan Shaw: The basic qualification conditions for employment and support allowance are that the customer:

Has limited capability for work;

Is at least 16 years old;

Has not reached pensionable age;

Is in Great Britain;

Is not entitled to Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance.

There are additional conditions to determine if a customer is entitled to contributory and/or income-related employment and support allowance.

Employment Schemes: Older Workers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, whether people currently on *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance will be eligible for the new specialist back to work support for the over 50s; and when she expects that support to be available. [312241]

Jonathan Shaw: The White Paper announced five new back-to-work measures for the over 50s, principally designed for those on jobseekers allowance (JSA). However, early access (day one of a claim) to work trials will extend equally to customers on incapacity benefits and employment and support allowance. The new specialist contracted support for over 50s will be delivered as part of the Jobcentre Plus Support Contract (JCPSC), which is an important tool for advisers and an integral part of the JSA customer journey.

The new JCPSC provision for over 50s will be open to people claiming JSA and New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP), New Deal for Partners (NDP) and Work Focused Support for Carers (WFSC) participants. People in receipt of IB will be able to access the JCPSC provision where they meet the eligibility criteria as a NDLP participant. Partners of customers in receipt of ESA/IB will be able to access the JCPSC provision where they meet the eligibility criteria as a NDP participant.

We are working to introduce the over 50s measures in spring this year.

Employment Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to develop the profiling tool for jobseekers referred to on page 108 of her Department's White Paper, Building Britain's Recovery; when she expects trials of that tool to start; where such trials will be undertaken; and recipients of what benefits will be included in those trials. [312239]

Jim Knight: We are currently conducting a trial that builds upon the Jobseekers Classification Instrument which is a questionnaire used in Australia to determine the level of service a jobseeker needs in order to find work. The trial has already started, is taking place across Great Britain via telephone interview and will cover 5,000 people making a new jobseeker's allowance claim.

Future Jobs Fund

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people were employed in each area where the Future Jobs Fund is operating in each month since its introduction. [311721]

Jim Knight: Information on Future Jobs Fund starts is not currently available, but will be made available from spring 2010 through a statistical release that is planned to cover the whole of the Young Person's Guarantee. This is normal practice for DWP employment programmes and it allows time for input from the UK Statistics Authority and for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported.

Income Support: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of people in receipt of income support on the ground of disability. [312240]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

Pension Credit

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy to increase pension credit payment levels to compensate for the effects of lower interest rates on the income of pensioners. [309699]

Angela Eagle: From November 2009 the amount of capital completely ignored in the calculation of pension credit was increased from £6,000 to £10,000. This change was made in response to the impact of falling interest rates on pensioners and means that around 88 per cent. of pension credit recipients have all of their capital ignored.

From April 2010 the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit is due to increase by 2 per cent. This means that, from April, no single pensioner need live on less than £132.60 a week and no couple on less than £202.40 a week. The above earnings increase in the pension credit guarantee underlines the Government's ongoing commitment to tackling pensioner poverty.

We have a good track record of reducing pensioner poverty. In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners in relative poverty than in 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs). Pensioners are less likely to be living in poverty, as measured by relative low income after housing costs, than the population as a whole.

Pensioners: Disabled

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the average income of a recipient of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance who is over 65 years or over. [309336]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2007-08 the median income of individuals in receipt of attendance allowance was £12,900 per year and the median income of disability living allowance recipients aged 65 years or over was £12,200 per year. However, to look at the living standards of recipients of disability living allowance and attendance allowance, it is more appropriate to use equivalised household incomes (where household incomes are adjusted for household size and composition) as presented in the Department for Work and Pensions Households Below Average Income report. Results on this basis are given in the following table:

Median equivalised annual household incomes of household containing recipients of attendance allowance and disability living allowance who are aged 65 or over

	Median annual household income (£)	
Group	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
Recipients of attendance allowance	19,200	18,900
Recipients of disability living allowance	18,500	17,400
All households with someone aged 65 or over	17,000	15,900

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £100.
2. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households. Since 2002-03, the Family Resources Survey has covered the whole of the United Kingdom. The Households Below Average Income series is sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
3. Data for 2007-08 were collected between April 2007 and March 2008.
4. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record both incomes and benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.
5. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
6. Attendance allowance and disability living allowance amounts have been included as income.
7. The Households Below Average Income series uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisations for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.
Sources:
1. The Family Resources Survey 2007-08.
2. Households Below Average Income report 2007-08.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Braintree constituency are in receipt of each type of benefit administered by her Department. [312079]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 January 2010]*: The information requested is in the following table.

Recipients of benefits in the Braintree parliamentary constituency, the county of Essex and England by statistical group: May 2009

	England	*Essex*	*Braintree*
Jobseekers	1,245,820	27,360	2,430
ESA and incapacity benefits	2,162,560	44,550	3,450
Lone parents	625,830	13,750	1,130

Recipients of benefits in the Braintree parliamentary constituency, the county of Essex and England by statistical group: May 2009

	England	*Essex*	*Braintree*
Carers	665,180	16,450	1,220
Others on income related benefit	2,105,360	51,380	3,960
Disabled	1,764,340	45,630	3,530
Bereaved	80,170	2,210	160
Receiving state pension only	6,240,990	198,100	13,950
All	14,890,230	399,450	29,840

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Caseload figures for attendance allowance, carers allowance, and disability living allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).
4. The statistical group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseeker's allowance would appear in "Jobseekers", not in "Disabled".
5. From November 2008 the "incapacity benefits group" includes employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of incapacity benefit (including credits only) or severe disablement allowance including people claiming income support on the grounds of incapacity.
6. May 2009 are the most recent data available.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she has taken to reduce levels of unemployment in Leeds, West constituency amongst lone parents since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [306951]

Jim Knight: Lone parents in Leeds, West have access to a wide range of pre-employment and in-work support, including the new deal for lone parents, dedicated personal advisers, working tax credits and in-work credit. Lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance also have access to support available to other jobseekers, such as to self-employment support, provisions such as work-focused training and recruitment subsidies available as part of the six month offer, the flexible new deal, and access to Local Employment Partnerships, where available.

According to the Household Labour Force Survey, the employment rate of lone parents in West Yorkshire was approximately 50.2 per cent. in 2001 (Quarter 2) and approximately 52.8 per cent. in 2009 (Quarter 2). West Yorkshire is the smallest region which includes Leeds, West for which the Department has employment data for lone parents.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Fraud

7. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Commission is taking to minimise the risk of fraud in the general election. [312133]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is working with police forces, electoral registration officers and returning officers to establish a network of single point of contact officers for electoral matters and has delivered training seminars for police forces and electoral administrators on electoral fraud.

The Commission has also, with the Association of Chief Police Officers, published guidance for electoral administrators and police forces on tackling electoral malpractice, and has established performance standards for electoral registration officers and returning officers on how to identify fraudulent activity.

General Election Counts

9. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what information the Electoral Commission holds on the number of election counts that are not planned to commence on the evening of polling day in the general election. [312135]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has asked all returning officers to provide information about their current plans for counting ballot papers at the next UK parliamentary general election. This information has been made available in the House of Commons Library.

In summary, as of 7 January, returning officers for 586 out of 650 constituencies had provided information. Of these, 52 currently do not plan to count ballot papers on the evening of polling day at the general election. A further 17 have indicated they may defer counting in the event that the general election is combined with local authority elections, and 187 were still undecided.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Solicitor-General how many iPODs have been bought by the Law Officers' Departments since 2005; and at what cost. [311893]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service is a devolved organisation. To obtain this information would require local managers to review all paper procurement records and would incur disproportionate cost.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments have not purchased any iPODs during this period.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Reform of the House of Commons Committee

27. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Leader of the House when she plans to bring forward proposals for the House to decide on the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Reform of the House of Commons. [312143]

Barbara Keeley: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House gave to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) in oral questions today.

WALES

Economic Situation: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers, *(b)* ministerial colleagues and *(c)* representatives of Bosch to discuss the closure of Bosch operations in Wales; what the date of each such meeting was; and who attended each; [312250]

(2) when he was informed of Bosch's intention to end their operations in Wales; [312251]

(3) what discussions he has had with Unite on the closure of Bosch operations in Wales. [312252]

Mr. Hain:: I have had discussions with a range of interested parties, including the First Minister and Unite.

Last October Bosch announced that it was holding a 90 day of consultation on the future of the plant, either to cut 300 posts or to close the site completely. On 14 January, Bosch management confirmed that it was recommending the closure of the factory, phasing out production and all jobs by the summer of 2011.

Although the consultation period continues until the end of February, we are already working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government to provide the support and assistance necessary to help those affected to find new opportunities and get them back into work as quickly as possible.

PRIME MINISTER

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 547W, on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, what mechanisms are in place to assess the effectiveness of machinery of government changes; and whether he has made such an assessment since 5 June 2009. [310345]

The Prime Minister: The machinery of government is kept under constant review.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Pay

John Mason: To ask the Prime Minister what severance payments have been made to Ministers who have left office since May 2007. [311198]

The Prime Minister: Severance pay is payable in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Office are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310842]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code respectively.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employment tribunals relating to his Department have been held in each of the last five years; and what the total cost to his Department was of such tribunals in each such year. [309940]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and its executive agencies have been taken to an employment tribunal 14 times in the last five years. Of these 14 cases, five cases were found in favour of the individual and DEFRA incurred costs. As the number of employment tribunals upheld in each of the last five years is such a small number, we cannot give further details because of the possibility of identifying individuals.

Fly Tipping: Fixed Penalties

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the flycapture fixed penalty notice dataset for each local authority for 2008-09; [311485]

(2) what proportion of local authorities provide flycapture fixed penalty notice data for waste receptacle offences to his Department. [311495]

Dan Norris: DEFRA collects information from local authorities, on fixed penalty notices for a range of environmental offences, including litter, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and waste receptacles. These are published on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/legislation/fpn/index.htm

The most recent complete year is 2006-07—the first year many of the FPNs came into being. The return indicates that 43 out of 354 English local authorities (12 per cent.) issued a total of 988 fixed penalty notices for waste receptacle offences.

Figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are being collected from local authorities and these will be published on the DEFRA website shortly.

Forestry Commission: Land

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Forestry Commission plans to sell any of the land it holds. [312490]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission has an ongoing programme of asset sales, the proceeds of which are re-invested in the management and development of the public forest estate.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bars

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report,* columns 825-6W, on bars, for what reason the House of Commons Commission decided not to consult the Administration Committee on possible sites for location of nursery facilities; and if he will make a statement. [312365]

Nick Harvey: The Commission considered it important to have the planned nursery facility operating early in the new Parliament, before new Members had made other childcare arrangements. This is a challenging timescale, given the need for listed building consent and consent for change of use, the time required to make the premises ready and the requirement to pass the Ofsted inspection and be registered with Ofsted. In view of the time constraints, the Commission decided it was not feasible to consult the Administration Committee.

Legislation: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will bring forward arrangements to ensure that legislation introduced in the House is published on the internet in the format recommended by mysociety.org in its Free Our Bills campaign. [312170]

Nick Harvey: The House Administration is currently considering, together with its counterpart in the House of Lords, a proposal for a Procedural Data Programme to update the IT systems holding data about the proceedings of the House, including Bills and amendments to them, so that the data is made available in an open standardised electronic format. The programme would aim to produce Bills and amendments in an electronic format which both complies with open standards and is readily re-usable so that it can be exchanged between parliamentary systems and made available to the public for further processing by others. This output would be similar to what is being requested in the Free our Bills campaign, and also to what is referred to by the House of Lords Information Committee in its recent report "Are the Lords Listening? Creating Connections Between People and Parliament (HL Paper 138—1, 2008-09)". The work would be undertaken in consultation with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, the Office of Public Sector Information (responsible for publishing Acts) and the Cabinet Office.

Staff are working with the existing software supplier to improve the quality of the XML output from the Bill drafting software. In addition, staff are examining the possibilities of using Bill data in its existing form to publish improved information on the parliamentary website, such as by linking Bill texts to existing Acts of Parliament which the Bill would amend. Some Bill texts showing the amendments made at Committee stage are already published on the parliamentary website (for example, the Financial Services Bill).

Members: Email

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report,* column 622W, on "Members: email", whether PICT has had discussions with representatives of Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) to find a technical fix to allow PGP software to be used on hon. Members' computers in a way which is not incompatible with Parliament's current version of VPN (remote access) software. [312432]

Nick Harvey: No. PICT provide support to an alternative encryption software product which is deemed to be completely satisfactory. However, Members are not restricted to using the encryption product that PICT offer and support, and can choose to use other products, including PGP.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report,* column 622W, on "Members: email", if the House of Commons Commission will ask PICT to undertake a further evaluation of whether Pretty Good Privacy software can be used by hon. Members following the introduction of new versions of the PGP email proxy and the Infoexpress VPN client. [312433]

Nick Harvey: No, there is no need to do so. Members are not restricted to using the encryption product that PICT offer and support.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire of 29 October 2009, *Official Report,* columns 517-8W, on the "Olympic Games 2012: construction", if she will list the construction contracts which have been awarded to firms based on each region. [309302]

Tessa Jowell: Full details of Olympic Delivery Authority's direct suppliers, including a map showing benefits to each region is available on London 2012's website at:

www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

Details of companies which have construction contracts through the supply chains of ODA's tier one contractors are also provided on the website, this includes the region they are from.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what commitments the Government Olympic Executive has received from other Government bodies in relation to support for the London 2012 Olympics; and what budget is attached to each such commitment. [312343]

Tessa Jowell: As part of the £9.325 billion public sector funding package for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), and the Department for Transport (DfT) are providing funding to the Olympic Delivery Authority for venues, infrastructure and Olympic Park security. As part of that package, the Home Office is providing £600 million for the wider policing and security of the games, and there is a further £238 million as a security contingency. CLG is providing £2.851 million and DfT £1.016 million.

In total 19 Government Departments are engaged in delivering the games and the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is currently working closely with those Departments to help them develop their plans and confirm the associated costs.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund: Discrimination

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Big Lottery Fund has provided to Developing Discrimination Advice Regional Events in 2009-10. [311801]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of the Big Lottery Fund.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund to write direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Camelot Group

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions members his Department have had with the National Lottery Commission on Camelot's proposed entry into the commercial market for bill payments and mobile telephone payments; and whether the Commission has made any assessment of the potential effect of such an entry on the commercial market in the area. [312249]

Mr. Simon: My officials and I have regular meetings with the National Lottery Commission about the full range of National Lottery Regulation issues, and the possibility of Camelot providing ancillary services has been discussed in that context.

The approval of the National Lottery Commission is required to allow the National Lottery operator to undertake such services and the Commission is currently considering proposals from Camelot.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of digital switchover under the provisions of the Digital Economy Bill on the ability of local commercial radio stations without a digital path to continue to broadcast on the analogue spectrum. [312081]

Mr. Simon: No specific assessment has been made of the impact of the radio provisions set out in the draft Digital Economy Bill on local commercial stations remaining on FM after the digital radio switchover. However, these provisions, and the proposals in the Digital Britain White Paper, were made following 18 months of consultation with the radio industry, which included representatives of small local commercial stations.

I am continuing this dialogue with the industry with the specific purpose of ensuring that local radio can continue to thrive on FM after the digital radio switchover.

Digital Broadcasting: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of Scottish households are able to receive digital radio services; what plans his Department has to increase coverage for digital radio in Scotland before 2015; what the cost of implementing those plans will be; and who will pay for the implementation. [311894]

Mr. Simon: The Spectrum Planning Group, which formed part of the Digital Radio Working Group, reported in November 2008 that 77.8 per cent. of the population in Scotland had access to indoor Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB).

Coverage of digital radio broadcasting in the UK continues to increase and both the commercial and the BBC's national multiplexes now reach about 90 per cent. of the UK population. The Digital Radio Upgrade programme will require new investment in building and improving DAB coverage and reception. To this end we will be working with the BBC and commercial operators to ensure coverage of DAB is comparable to FM by the end of 2014.

The Digital Britain White Paper was clear that the investment need to increase coverage will need to come from both commercial operators and the BBC.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of households in Scotland receive *(a)* digital commercial radio and *(b)* BBC digital radio services. [312104]

Mr. Simon: The Spectrum Planning Group, which formed part of the Digital Radio Working Group, reported in November 2008 that 76.2 per cent. of the population in Scotland had access to digital commercial radio services, while 77.8 per cent. of the population in Scotland has access to BBC digital radio services. Figures are based on indoor coverage.

Industrial Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether written health and safety advice is issued to each new employee in his Department. [311375]

Mr. Simon: While a written document is not provided to new staff, they are directed towards the departmental intranet on starting which outlines in detail the procedures and guidance on this matter. They are also given an emergency contact card which encourages them to read the evacuation procedures and provides them with key essential numbers for internal security, NHS Direct and other such contacts.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Estonian military personnel are serving with British Forces in Afghanistan; and in what capacity. [311355]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 155 Estonian military personnel serving in Afghanistan. An Estonian Infantry company operates with British forces in Task Force Helmand.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sub-contracts have been awarded in his Department's aircraft carriers procurement programme; and what the monetary value is of each such sub-contract. [311746]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As at 21 December 2009, a total of 93 sub-contracts had been placed by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance to support the build of the two Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers. A detailed list of these sub-contracts will be placed in the Library of the House.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to introduce a lapel badge for those who worked in the munitions factories during the Second World War. [305243]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

While I gratefully acknowledge the important contribution made by the munitions workers in the Second World War, there are no present plans to introduce a lapel badge.

Helicopters

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force is (i) in service and (ii) fit for purpose. [311896]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available. All rotary wing operational requirements are currently being met.

"In-Service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared surplus or awaiting disposal. Aircraft in the Forward Fleet are those aircraft that are available to Front Line Commands for Operational and training purposes. 'Fit for purpose' has been taken to mean which are 'Available'. This is defined as those aircraft within the Forward Fleet that are considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. The number of helicopters available varies from day to day, primarily due to routine maintenance requirements.

All aircraft in the Forward Fleet which are not Available are classified as Short-Term Unserviceable, because they may be undergoing first-line maintenance, other minor works or being prepared for transportation. Aircraft which are Short-Term Unserviceable can usually be made Available relatively quickly.

The Departmental Fleet comprises effective and non-effective aircraft. Non-effective aircraft are those aircraft still on the Military Register which are declared surplus and awaiting disposal and are no longer expected to be flown. Effective aircraft comprise those in the Depth Fleet and those in the Forward Fleet.

Aircraft in the Depth Fleet are those which are undergoing modification, depth maintenance and repair; in storage (including attrition aircraft); surplus aircraft awaiting classification as 'ineffective'; or Trials aircraft.

The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures are averages for December 2009.

Helicopter type/mark	*Departmental fleet (number of aircraft)*	*Effective fleet (number of aircraft)*	*Proportion of departmental fleet that is effective (percentage)*	*Forward fleet (number of aircraft)*	*Available (number of aircraft)*	*Proportion of forward fleet that is available (percentage)*
Royal Navy						
Lynx Mk3	28	28	100	20	13	65
Lynx Mk8	33	33	100	20	13	65
Merlin Mk1	42	42	100	22	10	45
Sea King Mk 4/6	42	42	100	27	18	67
Sea King Mk5	15	15	100	11	7	64
Sea King Mk7	13	13	100	10	7	70
Army						
Apache	67	67	100	46	23	[illegible]0
Gazelle	84	37	44	22	16	73

Helicopter type/mark	*Departmental fleet (number of aircraft)*	*Effective fleet (number of aircraft)*	*Proportion of departmental fleet that is effective (percentage)*	*Forward fleet (number of aircraft)*	*Available (number of aircraft)*	*Proportion of forward fleet that is available (percentage)*
Lynx Mk 7/9	100	88	88	54	34	63
Bell 212	7	7	100	7	7	100
Royal Air Force						
Chinook 2/2a	38	38	100	27	21	78
Merlin Mk 3/3a	28	28	100	19	7	37
Puma	34	34	100	24	12	50
Sea King Mk 3/3a	25	25	100	17	9	53

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter of 30 November 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay regarding a constituent, Mr. J. Dodd. [312248]

Bill Rammell: I will reply to the hon. Member for Billericay before 30 January 2010, responding to the letter from his constituent, Mr J. Dodd.

Navy: Caribbean

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships are located in the Caribbean; and whether any are being tasked to assist with humanitarian efforts in Haiti. [312573]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no Royal Navy ships in the region at this time. The Ministry of Defence is sending a Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, RFA Largs Bay, to carry vital relief goods to Haiti. This is a high priority task and I trust it will be seen as a significant contribution by HMG to the international aid effort.

In addition, an eight-strong Royal Military Police protection team has been deployed to assist the FCO's consular Rapid Deployment Team, and we have sent a 12-man Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team to assess whether further specialist UK military support is required.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310523]

Mr. Woodward: The area and annual rental costs for vacant and occupied office space rented by the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service and the Crown Solicitor's Office is shown in the following table.

Name of building	*Status*	*Gross floor area (square metre)*	*Annual rental costs excluding VAT (£)*
Castle Buildings, Stormont	Occupied	3,862	510,000
Hillview Buildings, Stormont	Occupied	812	47,000
Knockview Buildings, Stormont	Occupied	1,921	120,000
PSNI HQ Brooklyn, Belfast	Occupied	153	8,640
Dundonald House Annex	Occupied	n/a	0
Stormont House Bungalow, Stormont	Occupied	132	12,000
Stormont House and Annexe, Stormont	Occupied	3,225	64,000
Massey House, Stormont	Occupied	2,475	45,000
Unit 2, Walled Garden, Stormont	Vacant	350	26,000
Lagan House, Belfast	Occupied	947	100,000
Millennium House, 4th Floor, Belfast	Occupied	594	92,000
Millennium House, 6th Floor, Belfast	Occupied	1,579	219,000
Windsor House, 20th Floor, Belfast	Occupied	297	31,400
Thames House, London	Occupied	3,098	902,576
Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street, Belfast	Occupied	65	6,250
Belfast Chambers, 93 Chichester Street, Belfast	Occupied	5,465	525,828
Lisburn Chambers, Linenhall Street, Lisburn	Occupied	2,493	236,500
Linum Chambers, Bedford square, Bedford Street, Belfast	Occupied	2,802	295,000
Ballymena Chambers, Parkway, Ballymena	Occupied	2,494	179,800
Omagh Chambers, 2 Townhall Square, High Street, Omagh	Occupied	2,265	196,000
Foyle Chambers, 35 Limavady Road, Londonderry	Occupied	2,365	206,000
3rd Floor, Royal Courts of Justice	Occupied	1,239	78,500

The area and net book value for vacant and occupied office space owned by the Northern Ireland Office is shown in the following table.

Name of building	Status	Gross floor area (square metre)	Net book value (£)
Hillsborough Castle, Hillsborough.	Owned	4226	77,272,207
Maryfield, Belfast	Owned	n/a	3,000,000

n/a = not available

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many iPODs have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311911]

Paul Goggins: There have been no iPODS bought by the Northern Ireland Office, including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, since 2005.

HEALTH

Dental Services: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children in the London borough of Bexley were treated by a dentist providing NHS services in the last 12 months. [311563]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The proportion of child patients seen by an NHS dentist in the previous 24 months in Bexley Care Trust is 59.1 per cent. as at 30 September 2009.

Health Services: Sight Impaired

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to issue guidance to NHS bodies on the provision of information to blind and partially-sighted people at the time of their diagnosis with another condition or illness. [311288]

Ann Keen: Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, service providers are required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. This may include producing information about the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions in different formats, depending on an assessment of the person's needs. It is up to individual service providers as to how they make any necessary reasonable adjustments.

Hospital Wards: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many wards operated by Southend Hospital Trust have been closed during January 2010; and for what reason. [312489]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is a matter for Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to John Bruce, Chair of Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, informing him of the hon. Member's inquiries. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Influenza

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons were recorded as having contracted seasonal influenza in each year since 1998; and how many persons were recorded as having contracted swine influenza in the last 12 months. [312496]

Gillian Merron: Data on the total numbers of cases of seasonal influenza are not collected.

At the start of the swine flu pandemic, all suspected cases were investigated by laboratory testing. As of 1 July 2009 there were 6,929 confirmed cases of swine flu in the United Kingdom.

From July, however, as case numbers rose rapidly, only a small proportion of suspected cases were laboratory confirmed. From that point onwards, estimates of case numbers were made by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), with the aim of providing an indication of the trend in the occurrence of the disease in the population. It was recognised, however, that there was considerable uncertainty in the case number estimates and, in order to allow for this, wide ranges around the estimates were provided.

A total of 845,000 cases of illness due to influenza infection were estimated to have occurred in the population of England during the pandemic in 2009 based on the published, weekly, HPA estimates up to 20 December 2009 (range 415,000 to 1,662,000). This is recognised to underestimate the true number of people infected due to the occurrence of infection in many others who had either very mild illness or infection with no illness at all.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been inoculated against influenza in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last five years. [312487]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of people who have received influenza vaccine are available nationally and at the strategic health authority and the primary care trust (PCT) levels. No data are available for individual parliamentary constituencies or local authorities.

Data on the total number of people vaccinated against influenza during the influenza season (winter) of the years 2005-06 to 2009-10 are given in the following table for the PCT that have included the West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority.

Influenza season (winter)	Primary care trust[1]	Number of people vaccinated with seasonal influenza vaccine	Number of people vaccinated with swine influenza vaccine
2005-06	Chelmsford	16,492	—
	Maldon and South Chelmsford	11,176	—

Influenza season (winter)	*Primary care trust*[1]	*Number of people vaccinated with seasonal influenza vaccine*	*Number of people vaccinated with swine influenza vaccine*
	Witham, Braintree and Halstead	21,786	—
2006-07	Mid Essex	50,712	—
2007-08	Mid Essex	55,423	—
2008-09	Mid Essex	57,626	—
2009-10	Mid Essex	[2]53,058	[3]8,942

[1] Primary care trust boundaries changed in 2006.

[2] Provisional data up to end December 2009. These data include vaccination of frontline healthcare workers for which there are no data available for the primary care trust in earlier years.

[3] Provisional data up to end of November 2009 (December 2009 data were not available at time of writing). These data include vaccination of frontline healthcare workers. The figure is for the number of people that have received at least one dose of vaccine. Most people only need one dose of swine influenza vaccine but some require two doses given at least three weeks apart (data on the number of people that have completed their vaccination course are not yet available).

NHS: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which NHS charities which have NHS bodies as corporate trustees have submitted requests to change to independent trustees in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [311760]

(2) which NHS charities will be required to consolidate their funds into the accounts of the relevant NHS body under the new International Accounting Standard 27 being introduced in April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [311761]

Phil Hope: Three national health service bodies submitted a request to appoint independent trustees. Two have since indicated that they do not want to proceed at this stage.

It is not possible to identify individual NHS charities that will be required to consolidate their accounts into those of their relevant NHS body under the new International Accounting Standard 27 in April 2010, as application of the accounting standard will be determined locally taking into account the materiality of charitable funds. Our best estimate is that this may be around 30, which amounts to around 10 per cent. of those who are currently governed by a corporate trustee.

However, we are continuing to work with the Treasury, the Charity Commission and other stakeholders to seek ways to strengthen the independent governance of NHS charities to enable us to meet the standard without invoking the requirement for consolidation.

Although accounts may be consolidated for reporting, the charity's funds would remain wholly independent from NHS budgets.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the additional cost to the NHS arising from incidents attributable to weather conditions in January 2010. [311773]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service. The NHS, as part of its planning process, ensures operational challenges, such as adverse weather are factored into local contingency plans, including the cost of treating patients.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the pre-Budget report, which budgetary headings of NHS spending will comprise *(a)* the 95 per cent. of NHS frontline spending due to rise in line with inflation and *(b)* the 5 per cent. that will not. [311995]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National health service frontline spending is defined as 95 per cent. of the NHS near-cash expenditure limit in 2010-11. This covers all NHS spending that supports patient care.

The remaining 5 per cent. covers a large number of budgets that do not directly contribute to patient care in the NHS including areas like consultancy and administrative budgets for the Department, arm's length bodies and strategic health authorities.

Full details will be set out in the next spending review.

NHS: ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS benefits and pensions sub-departments spent on information technology in the last three financial years; how much of this was spent on *(a)* software development and testing and *(b)* application including (i) staff training, (ii) the cost of new hardware and software and (iii) the cost of launching into the live environment. [311383]

Ann Keen: NHS Pensions, a division of the Business Services Authority, administers the NHS Pension Scheme on behalf of the Department. They are unable to breakdown the costs of launching into the live environment because these costs are not broken down to this level within their accounts. These particular costs are therefore included in the overall development and testing costs in section 1 of the following table:

NHS Pensions

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]	£ *Total*
1. Software development and testing	56,508	3,479,307	11,828,878	15,364,694
2. Staff training	7,240	1,266	17,310	25,816
3. Cost of new hardware and software	—	19,921	187,057	206,978
Total	63,748	3,500,494	12,033,245	15,597,487

[1] April to December.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS IT projects have been outsourced to companies based overseas in the last three years; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [311384]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Within the national programme for information technology (IT), no discrete system or service projects have been outsourced to companies based overseas during the period. Comprehensive information is not held centrally about local IT procurements by national health service organisations outside of the national programme, and could be obtained only at disproportionate expense.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has allocated for the *(a)* procurement, *(b)* maintenance, *(c)* compliance testing and *(d)* security of IT systems in 2010-11. [311385]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of clinical negligence which were funded by conditional fee agreements were closed in each of the last five years; in how many such cases damages were paid *(a)* by agreement to settle and *(b)* by award; what the total cost was of defending each such case where damages were paid; how much was paid to claimants in legal costs in (i) total, (ii) base costs and (iii) success fees; and in such cases where damages were paid, how much was paid in after-the-event insurance premiums. [312528]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following table and was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA). The NHSLA is only able to provide an overall total of claimant costs because a global figure is recorded in its database. To provide a detailed breakdown of claimant costs, including After the Event insurance, would be at disproportionate cost.

Number of claims where the claimant funding was conditional fee arrangement (CFA) closed April 2004 to March 2009

Year of closure	*Number of CFA claims closed*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid (£)*	*Defence costs paid (£)*	*Claimant costs paid (£)*
2004-05	233	151	4,551,050	886,720	2,084,936
2005-06	861	625	31,892,845	5,177,915	14,448,748
2006-07	1,142	799	46,973,706	7,579,297	22,640,640
2007-08	1,559	1,127	62,559,320	10,596,148	37,934,943
2008-09	1,579	1,120	68,841,494	9,828,907	38,888,773
Total	5,374	3,822	214,818,415	34,068,986	115,998,040

Primary Care Trusts: Overtime

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust has paid in staff overtime in January 2010. [312015]

Ann Keen: Information about how much each primary care trust has paid in overtime in January 2010 will be available from the Electronic Staff Record in March 2010.

Swine Flu

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of persons who died following contraction of swine influenza in the last 12 months had also contracted other diseases. [312495]

Gillian Merron: Overall approximately 80 per cent. of people who died with Pandemic H1N1 (2009) infection also had other pre-existing diseases or other underlying medical conditions.

Further detail is available in a report in the *British Medical Journal*, 'Donaldson LJ, Rutter PD, Ellis BM, Greaves FEC, Mytton OT, Pebody RG and Yardley IE. Mortality from pandemic A/H1N1 2009 influenza in England: public health surveillance study'. BMJ 2009; 339 b5213; this is available online at:

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/339/dec10_1/b5213

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of unused stocks of swine influenza vaccine can be returned to suppliers at no cost to the public purse. [312497]

Gillian Merron: We are unable to return vaccines that have already been delivered. The options for handling the anticipated surplus of vaccine are currently being explored with the manufacturers. We will be seeking to minimise the overall cost to the British taxpayer.

Swine Influenza: Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's estimated expenditure under each budgetary heading has been on the swine influenza outbreak. [311997]

Gillian Merron: The spend on drugs for pandemic flu preparedness (not swine flu specific) prior to the swine flu pandemic was over £500 million. We also had plans for additional committed spend on further drugs. Since the outbreak, that spend has taken our expenditure to over £1 billion. We are not able to break down this number due to confidentiality clauses in our contracts with the various manufacturers.

The costs of consumables are also subject to confidentiality clauses.

The system development costs incurred to date for the National Pandemic Flu Service amount to approximately £13.5 million. Further operational costs are all in commercial confidence.

The cost of advertising and publicity activity in England on swine influenza, including the Swine Flu Information Phone Line, is approximately £15 million to date.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311258]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office performance for paying all invoices within 30 days and paying SME compliant invoices within 10 days in December 2009 is shown in the following table:

Table 1: Home Office performance of paying total number of invoices within 30 days and SME compliant invoices within 10 days for December 2009—Home Office and UKBA

	Number/ percentage
Total number of all invoices paid	5,623
Percentage of total number of all invoices paid within 30 days	95
Number of SMEs' compliant invoices paid within 10 days	1,282
SMEs—percentage of compliant invoices paid with 10 days	99

CRB's performance of paying invoices within 10 days in December 2009 is shown in the following table:

Table 2: CRB performance of paying SME invoices within 10 days for December 2009

	Number/percentage
Total number of all invoices	284
Number of SME invoices paid within 10 days	109
SME percentage of invoices paid within 10 days	89.34

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 703W, on the UK Border Agency, who his Department's commercial partners are; and which are the 110 locations referred to. [311463]

Mr. Woolas: UKBA has global contracts with two suppliers to provide visa application support services across all its regions. These are VFS-Global and CSC.

The two commercial partners operate 105 visa application centres, the locations of which are in the following list. This is an updated figure.

Country	*Location*
Algeria	Algiers
Bahrain	Manama
Bangladesh	Chittagong
	Dhaka
	Sylhet
Brazil	Brasilia
	Rio de Janeiro
	Sao Paulo
Canada	Edmonton
	Halifax
	Ottawa
	Toronto
	Vancouver
China	Beijing
	Chengdu
	Chongqing
	Fuzhou
	Guangzhou
	Hangzhou
	Jinan
	Nanjing
	Shanghai
	Shenyang
	Shenzhen
	Wuhan
Egypt	Alexandria
	Cairo
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa
France	Bordeaux
	Marseille
	Paris
Germany	Berlin
	Dusseldorf
	Munich
Ghana	Accra
India	New Delhi
	Jalandar
	Chandigarh
	Kolkata
	Chennai
	Hyderabad
	Bangalore
	Cochin
	Mumbai South
	Mumbai North
	Ahmedabad
	Pune
Italy	Rome
Indonesia	Jakarta
Jamaica	Kingston

Country	Location
Japan	Osaka
	Tokyo
Jordan	Amman
Kazakhstan	Almaty
Kenya	Nairobi
Kuwait	Kuwait City
Lebanon	Beirut
Libya	Tripoli
Malawi	Lilongwe
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Mozambique	Maputo
Namibia	Windhoek
Nepal	Kathmandu
Nigeria	Abuja
	Lagos - Ikeja
	Lagos - VI
Oman	Muscat
Pakistan	Islamabad
	Karachi
	Lahore
	Mirpur
Philippines	Manila
Qatar	Doha
Russia	Yekaterinburg
	Moscow
	Novosibirsk
	Rostov
	St. Petersburg
Serbia	Belgrade
Singapore	Singapore
Saudi Arabia	Jeddah
	Riyadh
	Al Khobar
South Africa	Cape Town
	Durban
	Johannesburg
	Port Elizabeth
	Pretoria
South Korea	Seoul
Sri Lanka	Colombo
Switzerland	Geneva
	Zurich
Syria	Damascus
Taiwan	Taipei
Thailand	Bangkok
Turkey	Ankara
	Bursa
	Gazientep
	Istanbul
	Izmir
UAE	Abu Dhabi
	Dubai
Uganda	Kampala
Ukraine	Kiev
Zimbabwe	Harare

Entry Clearances

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of appeals against visa refusal decisions at all overseas posts were allowed in *(a)* January 2009, *(b)* April 2009, *(c)* July 2009 and *(d)* October 2009. [312089]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is given in the following table. Immigration statistics for October 2009 will be published on 25 February.

UKBA monitors closely the reasons why appeals were overturned and uses the information to improve decision-making quality.

Worldwide

Report year 2009	*Allowed rate (percentage)*
January	44
April	38
July	41

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges approved by the UK Border Agency between December 2008 and December 2009 were subsequently suspended and their licence either not issued or cancelled. [311858]

Mr. Woolas: Of the colleges admitted to the Register of Sponsors for Tiers 2, 4 and 5 during the period 1 December 2008 and 31 December 2009 as of 18 January

2010 the UK Border Agency has revoked the licences of 13 sponsors and suspended a further 85.

The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students who failed to attend college or to pay their fees were returned to their country of origin between December 2008 and December 2009. [311859]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student spouse visas were issued from the beginning of December 2008 to December 2009. [311860]

Mr. Woolas: With the introduction of tier 4 of the points based system (students) on 31 March 2009, the UK Border Agency kept a separate record of visas issued to partners of students. Hitherto, both partners and children of students were recorded in the same category, "Student Dependent". The number of visas issued in these categories in the period December 2008 to September 2009 are shown in the following table. Visa statistics for the last quarter of 2009 will be published on 25 February.

Visas issued: student dependents: December 2008 to September 2009

Visa category	*Visas issued*
Student dependent (spouses + children) December 2008 to March 2009	10,961
Tier four (general) dependent-partners April 2008 to September 2009	6,566

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* husbands and *(b)* wives of persons studying in the UK from (i) India, (ii) Pakistan and (iii) Bangladesh were issued with visas for the purpose of entering the UK to join their spouses between January 2007 and December 2009. [311863]

Mr. Woolas: The number of visas issued to partners is as follows:

Visas issued: student dependents: January 2007 to September 2009

Visa Category	*India*	*Pakistan*	*Bangladesh*	*Total*
Student Dependent(spouses + children January 2007 - March 2009	5331	3822	2129	1,1282
Tier four (General) Dependent -Partners April 2008 - September 2009	1869	89	54	2,012

With the introduction of Tier 4 of the Points Based System (Students) on 31 March 2009, the UK Border Agency kept a separate record of visas issued to partners of students. Hitherto, both partners and children of students were recorded in the same category, Student Dependent. It is not therefore possible to provide the information requested except at disproportionate cost.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302749]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's accounting systems do not hold the information at the requested level of detail. An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Industrial Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the health and safety advice issued to each new starter upon joining his Department. [311815]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and its agencies, UKBA, IPS and CRB provide general health and safety advice to new starters through induction training and local line manager input. This advice includes emergency and evacuation procedures, accident reporting and first aid. The Health and Safety policy and other health and safety information is also available for all employees on the Home Office intranet.

We have no centrally produced Health and Safety advice sheet that can be placed in the Library but will make available a copy of the Home Office Health and Safety policy.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for North-East Hampshire of 18 June and 17 August 2009 on his constituent, Mr. Peter Booth. [310920]

Mr. Woolas: The signed reply letter was sent to the hon. Member for North-East Hampshire on 18 January 2010.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Billericay of 27 October and 8 December 2009 on his constituents, Mr. and Mrs. Adedoyin. [312235]

Mr. Woolas: Lin Homer, chief executive of the UK Border Agency, wrote to the Member on 14 January 2010.

Passports: Fraud

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fake British passports have been recovered *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas in each year since 2005. [311304]

Meg Hillier: The number of counterfeit, or 'fake' UK passports identified in the UK and recorded by UK Border Agency since 2005 is as follows. The figures for 2009 are not currently available.

	UK (number)
2005	6
2006	7
2007	13
2008	23
Total	49

Figures for 'fake' UK passports encountered overseas are not available.

Passports: Lost Property

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will inquire into the whereabouts of the passport of Miss Inaaya Khurram post ref Abu Dhabi 296566; and if he will make a statement. [311378]

Mr. Woolas: I am unable to comment on individual cases in PQ replies. I have written to the hon. Member in response to the question he has raised.

Prosecutions: EU Action

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect on judicial systems in the UK of the European Public Prosecutor envisaged under the provisions of the Lisbon treaty; and if he will make a statement. [312431]

Meg Hillier: There has been no assessment of the impact of a European Public Prosecutor (EPP) on judicial systems in the UK because no proposal to create such a body has been presented.

While the Lisbon treaty created a legal base for an EPP any proposal seeking to take advantage of that legal base would have to be agreed by unanimity of all participating member states. The UK would also have the choice whether or not to participate by virtue of our Justice and Home Affairs Opt-In Protocol. Therefore, under no circumstances could we be obliged to take part in the creation of an EPP were a proposal to be made.

Repatriation: Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the reintegration scheme in 2008-09. [311017]

Mr. Woolas: Reintegration assistance to support enforced and voluntary removals is provided by Assisted Voluntary Returns programmes and the Facilitated Returns Scheme.

The cost of the 2008-09 Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration programmes is currently not available as it is subject to audit, which will be made available in spring 2011.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency will provide information to the Home Affairs Committee on FRS expenditure when she writes in January 2010.

Surveillance: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 487W, on "Members: surveillance", whether guidance has been given to public authorities on the use of surveillance authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in respect of hon. Members and noble Lords. [312020]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance to public authorities authorising covert techniques under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 is given in Home Office statutory codes of practice approved by Parliament. We are currently revising the codes on covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources to make it clear that special consideration must be given to authorisations which involve information relating to communications between a Member of Parliament and a constituent in respect of constituency matters. The draft revised codes were laid before Parliament on 5 and 18 January to come into effect on 6 April.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 524W, on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, which 34 local authorities supported the use of the Act by local authorities for surveillance related to dog fouling, littering or school enrolment checking. [312022]

Mr. Hanson: My response of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 524W, to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) stated that the relevant details would be published shortly and copies placed in the House Library. That was done on 18 January.

UK Border Agency: Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of calls to the UK Border Agency helpline which have not been connected in the last 12 months. [312253]

Mr. Woolas: We do not record how many calls have not been connected to the UK Border Agency Helpline. Management information is only available for the resolution or otherwise of those calls that are connected.

Vetting: Young People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Record Bureau checks have been made on individuals who were under the age of 18 at the time of checking in the most recent year for which figures are available. [311793]

Meg Hillier: The total volume of applications made for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks by people under the age of 18 during the financial year April 2009 to 18 January 2010 is 111,949.

JUSTICE

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advertising campaigns for which his Department is responsible have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10; and what the cost of each such campaign has been. [309944]

Mr. Wills: Advertising expenditure on campaigns is interpreted as advertising expenditure other than for recruitment purposes.

The nature of the Ministry of Justice's activities—principally administering the courts, prisons, probation and tribunals systems—is such that it does not engage in significant levels of advertising on campaigns.

A survey of business areas across the Department and its Executive agencies (the National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service and the office of the Public Guardian) identified the following advertising campaigns which have commenced or continued in the 2009-10 year to date.

Campaign	*Cost (£)*	*Date*
Community Payback[1]	Funded by Home Office	March/April 2009
Youth Justice Campaign[2]	Funded jointly by the Youth Task Force and Joint Youth Justice Unit	December 2009
Promotional Adverts[3]	2,663	2009/10 (expenditure up until 12 January 2010
Total	26,623	—

[1] The Community Payback campaign was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and ran in March/April 2009. It was funded by the Home Office as part of the wider Justice Seen Justice Done campaign. The campaign informed the public of their power to nominate projects through which offenders can pay back local communities for their crimes without taking away work from others or making a profit for anyone.

[2] The Youth Justice campaign was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and ran in December 2009 in the north-west of England. The campaign informed people of measures in place to tackle youth antisocial behaviour and offending. The total cost of £122,559 was funded by the Youth Taskforce (part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)) and the Joint Youth Justice Unit (which is managed and funded jointly by the DCSF and the Ministry of Justice).

[3] The Law Commission within the Democracy, Constitution and Law division of the Ministry of Justice spent £2,663 on a number of promotional adverts in law journals, primarily to raise the profile of the Law Commission in order to: improve the rate at which proposals get implemented encourage a wider level of response to proposals on law reform encourage buy in for current and future work to continue the promotion of better law.

In addition to these outward-facing campaigns, the Ministry's Communications Directorate has undertaken various internal campaigns to promote specific corporate initiatives to staff. The cost of these campaigns cannot be separately identified from the wider work of the Communications Directorate.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [311513]

Mr. Wills: Training is available to Ministers on a range of issues, including handling the media, as part of both their induction and continuing development to help them carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code. No sessions of media training have been organised for Ministry of Justice Ministers in the last three years.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what volume of waste his Department generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of his Department's waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311840]

Mr. Wills: The waste figures for the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) are not separated out therefore individual figures for the amount of: paper, plastic, glass, metal, electrical goods and batteries and food waste generated and the percentage of each type that was recycled are not available; nor are figures for the amount of waste disposed of securely and disposed of in landfill.

The MOJ was created in May 2007. All central Government Departments and executive agencies are required to report on sustainable operations on the Government estate (SOGE) targets as part of the sustainable development in government (SDiG) reporting process. The waste reduction and recycling targets are to:

> Reduce waste arising by 5 per cent. by 2010 and by 25 per cent. by 2020 relative to their 2004-05 levels, and to
>
> Increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of their waste arising by 2010 and by 75 per cent. by 2020.

The estimate made of total waste arising from the Ministry of Justice in 2007-08 was 71,060 tonnes of which 22 per cent. was recycled. The assessment of 2007-08 performance can be found on the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=853

The estimate made of total waste arising from the Ministry of Justice in 2008-09 was 82,3277 tonnes—a reduction of 19.9 per cent. against a revised baseline. This represents excellent progress and the Ministry of Justice has already exceeded the 2010-11 waste reduction target; 36.6 per cent. was recycled. The assessment of 2008-09 performance, published by CESP on 18 December 2009, can be found on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/
sustainability_programme_progress.asp

Recording food waste as part of SOGE (sustainable operations on the Government estate) is optional. The following table gives an estimate of food waste generated at the Ministry of Justice by those areas that have collected the data.

			Tonnes
	2007-8	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
MOJ HQ	106	168	67
National Archives	3	3	3

HM Prison Service carried out two surveys as part of a business case to evaluate requirements for in-vessel composting and de-watering technology with the overall aim of providing an effective solution to sites with food waste disposal issues and upholding the philosophy of "waste to resource". The philosophy of "waste to resource" means taking waste and processing it into a useful, useable product and adding value to it. In 2006, based on 32 prisons, on average 1.45 kgs of food per prison place were wasted per week. In 2007, based on 51 prisons, the figure was 1.34 kgs of food waste per prison place per week.

	Number of prisons responding	*Operational capacity*	*Average food waste per place per week (kg)*
2006	32	17,416	1.45
2007	51	30,121	1.34

The use of de-watering and in-vessel composting technology has been introduced at around 35 prisons to process food waste into compost. The compost is used on prison gardens and horticultural activities thereby reducing the requirement for bought-in compost and contributing towards the HM Prison Service strategy for phasing out peat-based products.

Additionally, a small scale anaerobic digestion plant has been installed in Guy Marsh Prison with the objective of processing biodegradable wastes, including food waste, into biogas.

Industrial Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether written health and safety advice is issued to each new employee in his Department. [311374]

Mr. Wills: While formal written health and safety advice is not issued to each new employee in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), written policy and guidance is available to all staff on the intranet. The MoJ is committed to ensuring that all staff receive appropriate information, instruction and training on the health and safety matters relevant to their roles, and health, safety and fire awareness are an important part of the induction process for new staff. Moreover, health and safety risk assessments and safe systems of work are available at the point of use. HM Prison Service was awarded the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Training Trophy in 2007 for excellence in the delivery of work-related health and safety training.

Prisons: Drugs

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many internal audits of mandatory drug testing have been carried out in each of the last two years; and if he will publish them. [300954]

Maria Eagle: National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) Internal Audit completed two audits of mandatory drug testing (MDT) in the last two years. A follow-up audit which assessed progress made in implementing recommendations made in an earlier report was completed in 2008. A further full audit of MDT was completed in August 2009. From January 2010, Internal Audit will undertake a regular programme of MDT audits. This will be become part of the existing establishment audit programme and will review MDT procedures in approximately 35 establishments per year. Reports are published internally.

Remand in Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people of each ethnicity aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 18 and 20 and *(c)* between 21 and 25 years old have been (i) remanded in custody and (ii) sentenced to custody in each of the last five years. [312256]

Maria Eagle: Figures requested are shown in the following tables.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Remand receptions by ethnicity and age band 2004

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	4,355	8,517	31,943	9,741	54,556
White	3,343	6,407	8,817	22,336	40,903
Mixed	217	330	380	718	1,645
Asian or Asian British	179	508	964	1,783	3,434
Black or Black British	573	1,096	1,676	4,350	7,695
Chinese or Other	27	108	124	334	593
Unrecorded	13	38	78	27	156
1991 census codes	3	30	67	30	130

Sentenced receptions by ethnicity and age band 2004

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	5,172	13,092	22,240	52,822	93,326
White	4,120	10,652	17,828	42,959	75,559
Mixed	253	395	575	1,037	2,260
Asian or Asian British	227	683	1,482	2,425	4,817
Black or Black British	529	1,174	2,068	5,738	9,509
Chinese or Other	26	105	158	390	679
Unrecorded	16	47	58	120	241
1991 census codes	1	36	71	153	261

Remand receptions by ethnicity and age band 2005

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	4,358	8,405	11,661	31,031	55,455
White	3,272	6,271	8,435	22,918	40,896
Mixed	232	319	366	715	1,632
Asian or Asian British	202	509	977	2,114	3,802
Black or Black British	612	1,186	1,666	4,742	8,206
Chinese or Other	25	84	172	428	709
Unrecorded	13	32	26	70	141
1991 census codes	2	4	19	44	69

Sentenced receptions by ethnicity and age band 2005

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	5,175	12,644	20,495	52,100	90,414
White	4,185	10,280	16,275	41,550	72,290
Mixed	246	418	524	988	2,176
Asian or Asian British	218	644	1,435	2,869	5,166
Black or Black British	498	1,167	1,971	5,884	9,520
Chinese or Other	18	87	203	611	919
Unrecorded	8	42	63	150	263
1991 census codes	2	6	24	48	80

Remand receptions by ethnicity and age band 2006

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	4,538	8,499	11,249	31,523	55,809
White	3,284	6,254	8,023	23,258	40,819
Mixed	288	395	392	722	1,797
Asian or Asian British	204	489	1,005	2,188	3,886
Black or Black British	714	1,229	1,607	4,709	8,259
Chinese or Other	34	99	184	522	839
Unrecorded	9	28	25	78	140
1991 census codes	5	5	13	46	69

Immediate custodial sentence receptions by ethnicity and age band 2006

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	5,291	12,694	19,437	50,712	88,134
White	4,154	10,247	15,155	40,266	69,822
Mixed	271	463	515	1,005	2,254
Asian or Asian British	229	645	1,493	2,831	5,198
Black or Black British	604	1,168	1,963	5,777	9,512
Chinese or Other	25	118	248	633	1,024
Unrecorded	6	49	48	159	262
1991 census codes	2	4	15	41	62

Remand receptions by ethnicity and age band 2007

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	4,460	8,299	11,197	31,349	55,305
White	3,140	5,996	7,898	22,466	39,500
Mixed	308	392	420	793	1,913
Asian or Asian British	233	490	959	2,305	3,987
Black or Black British	721	1,293	1,616	4,952	8,582
Chinese or Other	42	115	262	753	1,172
Unrecorded	13	10	24	58	105
1991 census codes	3	3	18	22	46

Immediate custodial sentence receptions by ethnicity and age band 2007

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Total	5,356	13,666	19,617	51,622	90,261
White	4,138	11,047	15,369	40,872	71,426
Mixed	369	586	630	1,022	2,607
Asian or Asian British	232	625	1,380	3,069	5,306
Black or Black British	582	1,277	1,919	5,794	9,572
Chinese or Other	24	106	247	720	1,097
Unrecorded	9	18	67	135	229
1991 census codes	2	7	5	10	24

Remand receptions by ethnicity and age band 2008

	Ages				
	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*All*
All	4,051	8,413	11,460	33,493	57,417
White	2,772	5,934	8,086	23,976	40,768
Mixed	293	467	471	857	2,088
Asian or Asian British	233	546	983	2,690	4,452
Black or Black British	706	1,313	1,674	5,128	8,821
Chinese or Other	39	130	229	803	1,201
Unrecorded	6	13	14	37	70
1991 census codes	2	10	3	2	17

Ethnic by age (sentenced) 2008

	15-17	*18-20*	*21-25*	*Over 25*	*All*
All	5,290	14,199	21,535	57,796	98,820
White	3,982	11,339	16,981	45,701	78,003
Mixed	331	621	723	1,209	2,884
Asian or British Asian	263	709	1,522	3,642	6,136
Black or Black British	691	1,401	2,044	6,232	10,368
Chinese and Other	14	112	222	933	1,281
Not recorded	7	12	34	69	122
1991 census codes	2	5	9	10	26

Reoffenders

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 1246W, on reoffenders, for what reason some offenders were listed in prison data but could not be found on the police national computer. [312410]

Maria Eagle: The answer I gave the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report,* columns 1246-47W, presented figures on offences committed by offenders while on Home Detention Curfew (HDC). These figures were obtained by matching a dataset of offenders released on HDC with offending data taken from an extract of the police national computer (PNC). There is no unique offender ID common to the two datasets. The matching process uses each offender's surname, forename, gender and date of birth and involves both direct matching and a variety of 'sounds like' algorithms to allow for minor errors in data entry. A small proportion of cases in each quarter cannot be matched; this can result from errors in the recording of personal details in either of the data sources, from duplicate matches when it is not possible to decide between PNC records for offenders with similar details, or from records missing from the PNC. In 2007-08 one per cent. of the offenders listed on the prison data as released on HDC could not be matched to the PNC.

Sexual Offences: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Government allocated to the Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre in 2008-09. [312121]

Claire Ward: The Government provided Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre with £124,300 of funding in 2008-09.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Departments: Telecommunications

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will discuss with BT improvements to the resilience and security of its telecommunications services to Government Departments. [305612]

Tessa Jowell: BT and other suppliers of telecommunications services to Government Departments discuss these issues with senior officials directly and in a number of forums including in the Electronic Communications Resilience and Response Group.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17-year-olds are (i) employed and (ii) non-employed apprentices on (A) Level 2 and (B) Level 3 frameworks. [303728]

Mr. Iain Wright: According to DCSF official participation estimates for young people in England at the end of 2008, 3.1 per cent. of academic age 16-year-olds were on a level 2 apprenticeship and 0.7 per cent. were on a level 3 apprenticeship. The corresponding figures for 17-year-olds were 4.9 per cent. on level 2 apprenticeships and 1.4 per cent. on level 3 apprenticeships.

These estimates are based on snapshot data for the end of 2008 and on the highest course of study of the young person. They cannot be broken down by employment status because the Learning and Skills Council's Individualised Learner Record (ILR) which is the source of information for apprenticeships only has employment status when they start their apprenticeship and this often changes during their time on an apprenticeship.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many iPODs have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311903]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The DCSF have no records of any iPOD devices being purchased.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much expenditure his Department has incurred in respect of meals and subsistence for *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [303105]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information is not available in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307538]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is in the following table.

Named day PQs Session 2008-09

	Tabled	*Replied to on named day*	*Percentage*
December 2008	42	20	48
January 2009	77	42	55
February 2009	75	34	43
March 2009	83	51	61
April 2009	65	46	71
May 2009	71	51	72
June 2009	49	34	69
July 2009	15	12	80
August 2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
September 2009	38	31	82
October 2009	69	46	67
November 2009	82	46	56
December 2009	47	34	72

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

Future Jobs Fund

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school leavers have participated in programmes under the Future Jobs Fund *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Milton Keynes since its inception. [311246]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Future Jobs Fund started in July 2009 and the youth element is aimed at 18 to 24-year-olds who have been unemployed for six months; therefore we would not expect last year's school leavers to participate in the scheme yet.

GCSE

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of students *(a)* with special educational needs and *(b)* whose first language is not English gained (i) five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C, (ii) five GCSEs at grades A* to G and (iii) at least one GCSE pass in each year since 1997; [310562]

(2) how many and what proportion of students eligible for free school meals gained *(a)* five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C, *(b)* five GCSEs at grades A* to G and *(c)* at least one GCSE pass in each year since 2002. [310564]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 13 January 2010]:* Information on pupil attainment linked to their characteristics was not recorded before 2002, therefore the requested information for 1997 to 2001 is not available. All the requested information has been published for 2006 to 2009, with some elements published for earlier years.

The requested information for the years 2006 to 2009 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000900/SFR34_2009FinalUpdated.xls

The available information for 2005 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml

The available information for 2004 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml

The available information for the years 2002 and 2003 is published on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml

Measure (i), five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C, is available for 2005-09.

Measure (ii), five GCSEs at grades A* to G, is available for 2002, 2003 and 2006 to 2009.

Measure (iii), at least one GCSE pass, is available for 2004-09.

In addition, the number of pupils achieving no GCSE passes is available for 2002 and 2003.

Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees of his Department have been convicted of a criminal offence in the last five years. [310696]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department requires employees to notify their manager immediately they are arrested and charged with a criminal offence. If the employee is convicted, the Department will investigate and start a disciplinary process which may lead to dismissal. New employees must declare convictions during the recruitment process. Records back to 1995 are not held electronically nor in the format requested and a comprehensive search of paper based files, back to 1995 would result in disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the statistical release of 26 November 2009 entitled Youth crime: young people aged 10 to 17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction, in England, 2000-01 to 2008-09, how many of the offenders referred to in table one were aged *(a)* 10 to 12, *(b)* 13 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17 years old. [312100]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* The number of young people, aged *(a)* 10 to 12, *(b)* 13 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17, receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction processed by English or Welsh police forces can be found in the following tables:

Number of young people aged 10 to 17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction, processed by English or Welsh police forces (and percentage of year total)

	Financial year									
	2000-01		*2001-02*		*2002-03*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
(a) 10 to 12-year-old at time of offence	13,652	15	13,136	15	11,492	14	11,936	14	13,048	14
(b) 13 to 15-year-old at time of offence	45,393	51	44,672	50	40,830	49	44,139	50	49,067	51
(c) 16 to 17-year-old at time of offence	30,808	34	31,108	35	30,957	37	32,164	36	33,640	35
Total (10 to 17-year-old at time of offence)	89,853	100	88,916	100	83,279	100	88,239	100	95,755	100

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(a) 10 to 12-year-old at time of offence	14,769	14	15,686	14	13,780	14	10,152	13
(b) 13 to 15-year-old at time of offence	56,233	52	57,695	52	51,307	51	39,237	50
(c) 16 to 17-year-old at time of offence	36,273	34	36,905	33	35,123	35	29,871	38
Total (10 to 17-year-old at time of offence)	107,275	100	110,286	100	100,210	100	79,260	100

An equivalent breakdown by age bands is not available for offenders living in England due to the method used to allocate records where insufficient address data are available.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Location

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 17 June 2009, *Official Report,* House of Lords, column 210WA, in respect of which countries co-location with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been explored but rejected; and for what reasons co-location was rejected in each case. [311568]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since April 2007, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have explored options to co-locate in Pretoria, Abuja, Bridgetown and Pristina and decided not to proceed because the proposed moves would not provide value for money. The options for these posts are kept under review, along with those for all other posts which are currently not co-located.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any citizen juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008. [311624]

Mr. Michael Foster: No citizen juries or summits have been hosted by the Department for International Development (DFID) since October 2008.

Diplomatic Services: Procurement

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department share procurement arrangements with the British Embassy, Consulate or High Commission. [311588]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department of International Development (DFID) shares some aspects of procurement arrangements overseas with the Foreign Office, collaborating as opportunities arise, most frequently in the provision of estate management and security, travel management and healthcare support. We are pursuing opportunities to extend shared procurement arrangements.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 201W, on the "Middle East: armed conflict", what steps are being taken to remove white phosphorus contamination from rubble in Gaza; how many sites have been found to be contaminated; what timetable is envisaged for decontamination; and what assessment has been made of the risk to public health arising from such contamination. [311486]

Mr. Michael Foster: Following the end of the conflict the UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT) carried out an unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance operation and any white phosphorus (WP) rounds that were found, whether leaking or intact, were removed and neutralised. During this initial phase UNMAT assisted in the destruction of over 100 WP rounds. UNMAT has also removed and neutralized 53 WP rounds found in further clearance operations carried out since July 2009.

Currently, the UN does not know of any contaminated sites where WP remains. However, there may be a residual risk in buildings and areas yet to be cleared. The removal of UXO and explosive remnants of war (ERW) from rubble and agricultural areas will continue until July 2010.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is unaware of any assessments of the risk to public health arising from WP contamination. However, UNMAT notes that exposed WP normally burns immediately, leaving remnants which pose a limited risk. Unexposed WP is safe until it is discovered or exposed to air. If WP is exposed during clearance, UNMAT is ready to deal with the situation immediately.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 256W, on the "Middle East: armed conflict", what arrangements his Department has made to meet the housing needs of the 60,000 families identified as being in need; and if he will make a statement. [311487]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supported the provision of basic shelter by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the immediate aftermath of the conflict. The Prime Minister, other UK Ministers and officials have repeatedly pressed the Government of Israel to permit the import of materials for the reconstruction of homes and other buildings.

We are pleased that Israel has now allowed some glass to enter, but we will continue to advocate on this issue. We are also following with interest the UNRWA pilot project to build three houses using locally-manufactured compressed earth bricks, made from locally sourced materials such as sub-soil and aggregates.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions a Minister from his Department has visited Gaza to assess the humanitarian situation since the conflict in Gaza began; and if he will make a statement. [311397]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State for International Development visited Gaza on 1 March 2009. He was accompanied by John Ging, the UN Relief and Works Agency's Director for Gaza. The Secretary of State saw for himself the level of destruction in Gaza and met with people affected by the conflict. He also discussed relief efforts with the representatives of UK Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Officials from the Department for International Development regularly visit Gaza to assess the humanitarian situation and keep in close contact with NGOs and United Nations agencies. The Secretary of State receives regular briefings regarding the situation on the ground.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans the Government has to raise the restrictions placed by the government of Israel on access for humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials into Gaza at the UN Security Council; and if he will make a statement. [311400]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK consistently presses the Government of Israel to ease border restrictions and permit the flow of humanitarian aid and reconstruction material into Gaza. The Secretary of State for International Development raised this issue in a telephone call with the Israeli Defence Minister in December. The UK has also raised the need for improved access in several international fora, including the UN Security Council on 17 December 2009.

We shall continue to take all appropriate opportunities to press for improved access into Gaza, full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 and full respect of international humanitarian law.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what Government policy is on the legality under international law of Israeli restrictions on the access into Gaza of humanitarian aid. [311401]

Mr. Michael Foster: Although there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, given the significant control that Israel has over Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters, Israel retains obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as an occupying power. These include an obligation to facilitate the transfer of humanitarian aid into Gaza. We are extremely concerned by the continued restrictions on materials entering Gaza and will continue to press the Israeli Government to ease their restrictions.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks, of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 255W, on "Palestinians: overseas aid", what assessment he has made of the extent to which the decision of the Government of Israel to link aid and reconstruction materials access to Hamas's refusal to renounce violence constitutes collective punishment of the people of Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [311581]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have serious concerns about the Israeli restrictions on Gaza and the impact they have on the lives of Gazans. Although there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, given the significant control that Israel has over Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters, Israel retains obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as an occupying power. The Fourth Geneva Convention is clear that an occupying power must co-operate in allowing the passage and distribution of relief consignments. The restrictions currently imposed on the passage of relief supplies are, as we see it, a disproportionate response to the security threat.

The extent of Israeli restrictions, and the threat to Israel from militants in Gaza, varies constantly. Rather than focus on whether the restrictions at any given time, amount to collective punishment, we have consistently pressed the Israeli Government to comply with their obligations under international law and allow passage of relief supplies. Although aid is entering Gaza, according to the United Nations this is insufficient to meet the needs of the Gazan people.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials accompanied the UK ministerial delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen; how many such officials used each *(a)* mode and *(b)* class of travel; and what the total cost was of such travel. [310741]

Joan Ruddock: Two Ministers and 54 officials comprised the official UK delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. 45 delegates travelled by air, seven travelled by train, and four did not require any international travel.

Both Ministers and the five DECC officials accompanying them travelled business class. The other 33 DECC delegates travelled on economy tickets. The total cost of DECC's travel was roughly £19,390.

This does not include the Prime Minister and the delegation from No. 10.

Climatic Research Unit

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for his Department's funding of the climate programme at the Hadley Centre after 2010. [310991]

Joan Ruddock: Funding for climate change research undertaken by the Met Office Hadley Centre has been agreed through to March 2011, with contributions from DECC, DEFRA and DFID. Funding beyond April 2011 will be subject to the normal Government Spending Round processes.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310810]

Joan Ruddock: DECC endeavours to send as much of its food waste as possible for environmentally-friendly treatment (generally composting) rather than to landfill. The total amount of food waste sent for treatment in this way, included as part of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate reporting process is 6.88 tonnes for January 2009 to December 2009.

Some additional food waste, which has not been quantified, may have entered the residual waste stream and been sent to landfill.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1045-8W, on departmental internet, how many staff worked on each listed website *(a)* in each of the last three years and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [311920]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 19 January 2010]*: The DECC corporate site:

www.decc.gov.uk

was launched on 23 February 2009. 1.5 full-time equivalent members of staff worked on the website at the time of launch in 2008-09. 3.5 members of staff are working on the website as of 19 January 2010.

The majority of other sites run by the Department are resourced entirely by outside agencies and require/have required no departmental staff involvement.

Those sites that do require/have required staff involvement are as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009 to date*
http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html	0	0	2 FT staff	2 FT staff
www.og.decc.gov.uk	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/help.htm	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
www.pilottaskforce.co.uk	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
www.actoncopenhagen.gov.uk	0	0	0	1 FT May 2009 to present; and 1 FT from August to December 2009
www.corwm.org.uk	1 FT	1 FT	1 FT	1 FT
https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/	0	0	0	2 FT

[1] One FT member of staff working across the three sites https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/help.htm was launched in 2008-09.

Exhaust Emissions: Aviation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on claims by airlines that they are able to prove reductions in greenhouse gas emissions arising from their activities. [311945]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not commissioned or undertaken research on any claims that may have been made by airlines that they are able to prove reductions in greenhouse gas emissions arising from their activities. DECC does, however, monitor UK aviation emissions through its UK greenhouse gas inventory and to some extent can use this to assess the impact of activities in the airline industry.

The Government encourage airlines to set environmental targets and to monitor their progress against them. However, we have no current plans to review the differing methodologies they apply in carrying out this work.

Fuel Poverty: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Preston have received assistance under the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme since the inception of the scheme. [311143]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows how many households in Preston have received assistance under the Warm Front Scheme (the operating name of the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme in England) since its inception.

Preston	
	Number
2000-01	607
2001-02	985
2002-03	1,191
2003-04	1,317
2004-05	845
2005-06	562
2005-06	423
2006-07	1,248

Preston

	Number
2007-08	1,272
2008-09	865
2009-10[1]	772
Total	10,087

[1] Up to 31 December 2009

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to establish a compensation scheme for surface workers as part of the British Coal Respiratory Disease Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [312234]

Mr. Kidney: No.

Miners with surface only exposure to dust were not covered by the 1998 High Court Respiratory Disease Judgment and not included under the Claims Handling Agreement (CHA). The Department's position has been that the levels of respirable dust (rather than visible dust) in surface jobs was not sufficient to cause lung disease. Despite the Department's position on these cases, I recognise there has been a long-standing campaign to seek compensation for surface workers. In an attempt to settle this issue, four "test" cases were to be brought before the court for determination in November 2009.

I can now report that at a pre-trial court hearing on 9 October 2009, the solicitors acting for the four selected claimants conceded the litigation on all four cases and costs were awarded to the Department. When advising the court of the position, the claimants' counsel said

> "in the light of the expert evidence in each case, the court was likely to make findings in relation to dust exposure that would make it difficult for any of these four claimants to establish any significant injury."

On this basis, no case for compensation has been established in respect of surface workers with surface only exposure.

However, due to the Department's diligence, I can report that c.650 claims previously identified as Coal Preparation Plant only claims by their solicitors were found to be able to be compensated as "mixed workers" under the CHA and these are now being processed. Additionally, another c.200 claims are now having their underground only employment assessed and settled.

Under a Court Order agreed in December 2009, and not opposed by the claimant's solicitors, all remaining surface only claims are now in the "strike out" process for mid February 2010.

Natural Gas: Storage

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to increase the capacity of the UK's strategic gas reserve in respect of *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term strategic storage; and if he will make a statement. [310099]

Mr. Kidney: The provision of gas storage capacity is a commercial matter; Great Britain does not have a designated "strategic gas reserve". National Grid's 'Gas Transportation Ten Year Statement 2009', published in December, reports 22 commercial gas storage projects at various stages of development. If these all proceed to commissioning, they could increase our gas storage capacity, to serve a range of short-term and long-term needs, by some 400 per cent. by around 2020. The Government are helping these projects to go forward, through reforms to the onshore and offshore consents regimes under the Planning and Energy Acts 2008; and by clarifying, alongside Budget 2009, that cushion gas, required by gas storage facilities, is eligible for tax relief.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to Baroness Neville-Jones of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA128, what the outcome was of the inquiry into the removal of protectively marked information from a nuclear licensed site in 2006. [311291]

Mr. Kidney: A recommendation was made to provide a programme of training and education for the individual responsible for the inadvertent disclosure, and this training duly took place.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what process he plans to take into account submissions made to his Department's consultations on *(a)* the National Nuclear Policy Statement and *(b)* the regulatory justification of new nuclear power stations; and when he expects to respond to each consultation. [311292]

Mr. Kidney: The consultation on the Nuclear and other energy National Policy Statements will close on 22 February 2010. The Government will carefully consider the responses made to the consultation, along with the output of the Parliamentary Scrutiny of the National Policy Statements, and intend to publish a revised National Policy Statement when the process is complete.

On Regulatory Justification, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has published his proposed decisions for consultation. He will consider all responses received before making his final decisions and expects to respond to the consultation at the end of this process.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the average waiting time for the installation of *(a)* heating and *(b)* insulation measures under the Warm Front scheme in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since the inception of that scheme. [310621]

Mr. Kidney: The following table details average timescales in working days for *(a)* heating and *(b)* insulation measures delivered by Warm Front in England since the beginning of the current phase of the scheme in 2005, and for Jarrow, South Tyneside and North East England in the current year to date.

Further details on timescales for (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East will be placed in the House of Commons Library when available.

										Average days
		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10[1]
	Heating	Insulation	Heating	Insulation	Heating	Insulation	Heating	Insulation	Heating	Insulation
Jarrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.2	17.1
South Tyneside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36.3	16.1
North East England	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36.2	13.6
England	67.7	30.9	81.7	33.2	65.8	27.6	65.1	34.0	36.1	14.8

[1] To 31 December 2009

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of back boilers which have been replaced under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception. [310622]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the total number of boilers replaced by the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the current phase of the Scheme began in 2005, but does not differentiate back boilers and other types of boiler replaced under Warm Front. Details on types of boiler being replaced are not recorded.

Boilers Installed	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[1]	Total
Jarrow	31	104	248	257	160	800
South Tyneside	80	295	493	550	291	1709
North East England	1175	4745	7379	8448	6152	27899
England	14,136	53,436	75,600	80,458	66,212	289,842

[1] Up to 3 December 2009

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been provided in Warm Front grants in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since their inception. [310664]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the value of Warm Front funding spent in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the beginning of the current phase of the Scheme in 2005.

£

Measures Spend	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Jarrow	194,674.62	335,418.07	722,418.63	791,523.15	518,328.38	2,562,362.85
South Tyneside	439,733.01	917,753.50	1,431,320.02	1,659,580.58	307,773.59	4,756,160.71
North East England	8,013,910.25	17,304,135.33	24,211,961.07	27,050,477.38	17,056,295.05	93,636,779.09
England	117,586,794.08	261,354,000.01	336,001,000.06	362,115,000.16	319,114,710.69	1,396,171,505.00

Note:

Figures above include the cost of all measures provided through Warm Front, including those subsequently funded through interaction with other programmes (for example with utilities and CERT).

Warm Front Scheme: Derbyshire

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Chesterfield and *(b)* Derbyshire have received grants under the Warm Front Scheme in each year since the inception of the scheme. [311382]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the number of households which have received grants under the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* Chesterfield and *(b)* Derbyshire each year since the beginning of the current phase of the Scheme in 2005. Figures prior to 2005 are unavailable. The current Scheme manager did not manage the Scheme in these areas at this time, as such, the data retained are not sufficient to provide a consolidated response.

	Chesterfield	Derbyshire
2005-06	187	2,847
2006-07	615	6,183
2007-08	754	6,481
2008-09	498	5,341
2009-10[1]	471	4,117
Total	2,525	19,585

[1] Up to 31 December 2009.

Warm Front Scheme: Disabled

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons he decided that households with no eligible adults but with children in receipt of disability living allowance would not be eligible for assistance under the Warm Front scheme. [311649]

Mr. Kidney: To be eligible for the Scheme the applicant or their spouse must be a homeowner or tenant in the private sector and in receipt of a qualifying disability or income related benefit.

The current criteria have been selected because they offer a practical way of assessing the likelihood of a household being at risk of fuel poverty. Although this method is by no means perfect, other methods considered were judged to be either less accurate at reaching target vulnerable groups or prohibitively expensive to administer.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to increase the number of dwellings available for low-cost home ownership in Lewes constituency. [311169]

John Healey: Increasing affordable housing is a priority for Government and we have substantially increased funding for this through The National Affordable Housing Programme, delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency. Most recently a substantial part of the extra £1.5 billion Housing Pledge set out in June 2009 is for additional affordable housing.

It is for local authorities and their partners to seek funding for suitable good value-for money-schemes. Registered social landlords working in Lewes have been successful in bids for almost £1.8 million in the current three year period to build 60 low-cost home ownership properties. This is in addition to almost £6 million provided to build new affordable homes for rent.

Air Conditioning

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the level of compliance with the requirement for all air conditioning systems over 250kW to be inspected under the terms of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive by 4 January 2009; and if he will make a statement; [310923]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of compliance in Government buildings with the requirement under the terms of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive for air conditioning systems over 250kW to be inspected by 4 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [310924]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to require all mandatory air conditioning systems reports to be logged on a central database; and if he will make a statement. [310925]

John Healey: We intend to consult in due course on whether to make it mandatory to lodge air conditioning reports on the National Register.

Community Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what datasets are being collected under his Departmental Strategic Objective Indicator 4.4, on the extent to which domestic communities, particularly Muslim communities, reject and condemn violent extremism; what the methodology is for collecting data for this indicator; what targets have been set for it; and what the baseline is. [311813]

Mr. Malik: The Citizenship Survey already provides data to measure across our DSO 4. We are continuing to explore ways to measure DSO 4.4 in a manner which ensures a robust indicator for which data quality standards are met. No targets or baselines have been set as yet for DSO 4.4.

Community Relations: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 13 of his Department's Resource Accounts 2008-09, HC 449, whether any delays in awarding grants under new Prevent grant programmes came from *(a)* potential applicants not having satisfied appropriate checks and *(b)* the time taken to perform appropriate checks; and which body undertook the checks on grant recipients. [311531]

Mr. Malik: Organisations that apply to the Community Leadership Fund (CLF) for funding are subject to an assessment process, which includes evaluation of proposals against published criteria and the suitability of organisations to deliver their proposals through financial and background checks. Agreement to fund organisations is also subject to ministerial approval.

Delays did not arise from potential applicants not having satisfied appropriate checks, but the assessment process took longer than expected due to the volume of applications received—approximately three months, from closing date to obtaining ministerial approval. This resulted in some payments not being made to organisations before the end of the financial year.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has paid PA Consulting for services relating to the FiReControl project; and whether a proportion of such payments included bonus payments for meeting targets. [312026]

Mr. Malik: Between April 2004 and December 2009 we have paid PA Consulting £37 million for consultancy services in relation to FiReControl. PA Consultancy invoice us for the number of days their consultants work on the project in line with the contract terms and conditions. No bonus payments are made by the Department.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 6 January 2010, on new faith advisers, what consideration he gave to appointing a representative of the Roman Catholic Church as an adviser. [311797]

Mr. Malik: The new panel of expert advisers on faith is not a representative body and there is therefore no requirement for it to include representatives of any denomination or faith. The Faith Communities Consultative Council which I jointly chair continues to be the main representative forum for consultation between Government and faith communities. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is represented on the Council.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has provided guidance to local authorities on the use of stop notice powers in respect of *(a)* illegal dumping of material from an unauthorised traveller site and *(b)* the stationing of a caravan which is used as a residence. [312027]

Mr. Malik: Local authorities have powers under the 'Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005' that enables them to remove fly-tipped waste and upon conviction to recover costs from those who deposited the waste, or allowed it to be illegally dumped.

The Government have published guidance setting out the powers available to local authorities when tackling unauthorised developments. The 'Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers—Part 2: Unauthorised Development of Caravan Sites' is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/unauthorisedsites

Empty Property: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of empty *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial properties in (i) West Chelmsford constituency and (ii) Chelmsford local authority area in the last five years for which figures are available. [312481]

Barbara Follett: The number of empty residential properties in the Chelmsford local authority area in 2005 to 2009 are shown in the following table:

	Number
2005	1,489
2006	1,551
2007	1,703
2008	1,706
2009	1,674

The data are both short-term and long-term empty dwellings as reported annually by all billing authorities in England in October of the year. Data are not available at a constituency level.

No estimates of empty non-domestic properties have been published.

Fabian Society

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech given by the Minister for Housing and Planning to the Fabian Society on 9 December 2009. [311547]

John Healey: A copy of my speech is available on the Fabian Society website at:

http://www.fabian-society.org.uk/events/speeches/healey-speech-housing-after-the-crunch

Fire Prevention: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 302W, on fires, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meetings of *(a)* 13 October, *(b)* 1 December and *(c)* 3 December 2009. [311845]

Mr. Malik: The minutes of the joint meeting with Business and Community Safety Forum and the Practitioners' Forum on 13 October 2009 will be placed in the Library as soon as they have been formally agreed by the respective forums.

Minutes were not taken for either the private meeting between myself and the Chief Fire Officers Association Presidential Team on 1 December 2009, or for the meeting which my officials facilitated with representatives from the fire service, local authority building control bodies, Association of Consultant Approved Inspectors and the Health and Safety Executive on 3 December 2009.

Fire Services

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* original timetable was and *(b)* the latest timetable is for the (i) Firelink, (ii) FireBuy Integrated Clothing and (iii) FiREControl project. [311626]

Mr. Malik: The ministerial announcement of the Firelink project was made in May 2002 with completion scheduled December 2007. Subsequently the contract was awarded in March 2006 and roll-out to fire service vehicles commenced in November 2008, with completion revised to March 2010.

The original timetable of the Integrated Clothing Project was for FireBuy to let the contract by December 2006. The purchase only part of the contract was signed in November 2007 and the fully managed service option was signed in May 2008.

The original go-live timetable for the FiReControl project was to complete in December 2007 in line with the Firelink project. The current estimated go-live date is May 2011.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the intervention protocol prepared by the Secretary of State under section 23 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. [311800]

Mr. Malik: On 19 February 2003 Government and the Local Government Association signed a protocol: 'Central Government Engagement and Intervention in Poorly Performing Authorities'. Pages 10 and 11 of the current Fire and Rescue Services National Framework says this protocol meets the requirement of section 23 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. I have arranged for a copy of the 2003 protocol to be placed in the Library.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effects on the number of fire *(a)* stations and *(b)* appliances at each location of the repeal of section 19 (4) of the Fire Services Act 1947, requiring a fire authority to obtain the prior consent of the Secretary of State for the closure of a fire station and reductions in the number of fire appliances. [312036]

Mr. Malik: The repeal of Section 19 of the Fire Services Act 1947 was an essential element of the move to integrated risk management planning (IRMP), under which local fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) and local communities are able to make appropriate decisions at the local level.

The numbers of fire *(a)* stations and *(b)* appliances are provided to the Department in annual data returns by Fire and Rescue Services in England. Figures since 2003-04 are collected and are shown in the following table.

No assessment has been made by this Department of the direct effects on the number of fire stations and fire appliances of the repeal of section 19(4) of the 1947 Act, although the Audit Commission takes account of individual FRAs' IRMP—under which decisions on the number and location of stations and appliances are made—in drawing up annual assessments as part of the comprehensive area assessment.

Numbers of fire stations and fire appliances, England

		2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of fire stations[1]		1,443	1,442	1,444	1,437	1,439	1,435
Total appliances		3,279	3,274	3,308	3,358	3,475	3,325
	Pumps	2,120	2,110	2,091	2,086	2,075	2,062
Front-line fleet	Other appliances[2]	776	769	825	812	859	823
	Pumps	333	351	356	404	475	387
Reserve fleet	Other appliances[2]	50	44	36	56	66	53

[1] Whole time and retained.

[2] Includes aerials and special appliances.

Source:

Annual Returns to Communities and Local Government

Fire Services: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to control the FiReControl project budget. [311543]

Mr. Malik: The Department works to deliver the benefits of FiReControl, at least cost to the taxpayer.

We have professional finance and contractual expertise to control the budget and manage contracts with suppliers. FiReControl follows the Department's finance and procurement processes. We follow best practice set out by the Office of Government Commerce, who rigorously review the project on a regular basis.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* original and *(b)* most recent cost estimate is for the (i) Firelink, (ii) Firebuy Integrated Clothing and (iii) FiREControl project. [311629]

Mr. Malik: The information is as follows:

(i) On a comparable basis the Firelink cost estimates are:

Original contract award 29 March 2006: £353 million.

Current estimate, August 2009: £313 million.

(ii) There is no recent separate cost estimate for the Firebuy Integrated Clothing Project. This is one of a number of contracts established within the fire and rescue service procurement remit of Firebuy.

(iii) For the FiReControl project, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Copeland (Mr. Reed) on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 764W.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the FiReControl project since its inception. [312008]

Mr. Malik: The current estimated overall cost of implementation of the FiReControl project is £420 million.

Fire Services: Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other remuneration is paid to each chief executive of the new regional fire control companies. [311662]

Mr. Malik: The responsibility for salary and other remuneration is a matter for the Local Authority Control Company which employs the chief executives.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 586W, on "Fire Services: Finance", what performance targets officials on the FiReControl project met in respect of which bonuses to justify the bonuses; and which performance targets are used to assess the award of bonuses to officials working on the project. [311831]

Mr. Malik: These payments have been made in line with the Department's pay and reward policy.

Fire Services: Recruitment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 706W, on fire services: equality, whether any Fire and Rescue Services have targets to increase recruitment of Travellers. [311742]

Mr. Malik: Fire and rescue services have not been set any targets for the recruitment of Travellers.

The 'Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy' published in May 2008 made it clear that all services in England are expected to promote equality and to seek to improve the diversity within their work force in order to better reflect the communities they serve.

Floods: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest assessment is of the level of flood risk in the Thames Gateway development area; and what recent planning guidance his Department has provided on new-build development in areas of the Thames Gateway at risk of flooding. [312031]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 887-88W.

Green Belt: Thames Gateway

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on protecting the green belt within the Thames Gateway; and if he will make a statement. [310830]

Mr. Malik: The Government have a continuing commitment to the protection of green belt and its crucial characteristics of openness and permanence. Among the policies set out in PPG2 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, 'Green Belts') to guide decision-makers is a presumption against allowing inappropriate development on green belt land. These policies are applied as vigorously in the Thames Gateway as they are everywhere else.

Only in exceptional circumstances may green belt boundaries be altered. Any proposal for significant change in green belt area has to be made during the preparation of regional strategy. Any essential adjustment of the boundary of a green belt is for the local planning authority to propose as part of the local plan process. The Secretary of State monitors emerging regional strategies and local plans to ensure they are consistent with national policy. Government Offices make representations to the independent examinations of draft RSSs and LDFs if the approach proposed is not consistent with PPG2. There are no plans to change the policy set out in PPG2.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Clwyd West of 8 December 2009, *Official Report, column* 297W, on home information packs, when the 2010 report on the effectiveness of the home information packs programme will be published; by whom the report is being produced; using what methodology; and at what cost. [311518]

John Healey: We intend to evaluate the effectiveness of HIPs by updating 'The HIP Baseline Research Report', published in January 2007. A copy of the report is available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hipbaselineresearch

We are currently in the process of commissioning the study through the established contract tender process, so the timing and cost have yet to be finalised. I expect the interim results could be available in summer 2010.

Homes and Communities Agency: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public relations firms are on the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) Public Relations Panel; and whether the HCA uses public relation contractors listed in framework agreements with the Central Office of Information. [311542]

John Healey: The HCA Public Relations panel is no longer in place. All contracts ended in December 2009, there are no current contracts in place.

Local Government Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what occasions his Department has used budget-capping powers in respect of local authorities in the last 10 years; and for what reasons in each case. [312255]

Barbara Follett: Capping action has been taken against 34 authorities on five occasions over the last 10 years. In each case, action was taken because the authorities exceeded the capping principles determined by the Secretary of State.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people resident in Crewe and Nantwich constituency have received funding from the Mortgage Rescue Scheme; [311430]

(2) how many people resident in Crewe and Nantwich constituency have received funding from the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. [311431]

John Healey: In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available. Over the last year, over 330,000 homeowners have received help and advice with their mortgage, and targeted safety net schemes are available for those in most need. Repossessions, arrears and voluntary repossessions are currently running at around half the rates at which they peaked in the early 1990s.

As part of the monitoring arrangements for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, headline data for January—September 2009, provided by local authorities and broken down by Government Office Region, are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library. Data are not collected at constituency level. Data for the October—December period will be published on 11 February 2010.

The Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme was launched in April 2009. Management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support and equivalent forbearance schemes was released by the Department on 9 December 2009. Figures can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1408110

Data are not collected at constituency level.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 472W, on multiple occupation: licensing, for what reasons the report has not yet been published; and if he will make a statement. [311377]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 894W.

Natural Resources: West Midlands

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has taken steps to assess the merits of proposals by public authorities in the West Midlands to reduce levels of aggregate extractions. [311750]

Mr. Ian Austin: No. Such assessments will take place as part of the preparation of the Regional Strategy for the West Midlands, and in examining relevant development plan documents by each minerals planning authority.

Non-domestic Rates: Greater London

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of 8 December 2009 to the Sixth Delegated Legislation Committee, on the Business Rate Supplements (Rateable Value Condition) (England) Regulations 2009, *Official Report*, column 8, how many and what proportion of business properties in London will be exempt from the supplementary business rate following the 2010 rates revaluation; and how much revenue he estimates the supplementary rate will raise in 2010-11. [311811]

Barbara Follett: 231,040 hereditaments, which is 82 per cent. of all hereditaments in London, are assessed with a rateable value of £50,000 or less. These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Rating Lists—England and Wales", published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

The minimum threshold must be £50,000, although the Mayor of London has the discretion to set a higher threshold exempting additional hereditaments. Final decisions on the level of the supplement and the extent of further exemptions are for the Mayor of London, therefore we cannot estimate the amount of revenue that would be raised.

Planning Act 2008

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to issue guidance to local authorities on the preparation of local impact reports under Section 60 of the Planning Act 2008. [312086]

Mr. Ian Austin: It is for local authorities to decide what is relevant for inclusion in a local impact report and Government do not intend to publish guidance on what they should contain. The Infrastructure Planning Commission will be providing further advice to local authorities as to how they should be presented.

Private Rented Housing: Registration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for bringing forward legislation on the registration of private sector landlords; and which public body would be responsible for the register under those proposals. [311715]

Mr. Ian Austin: We consulted over the summer on our response to the independent review of the private rented sector carried out by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York. This included proposals for a national register of private landlords. We have been considering the consultation responses received and plan to publish the results shortly.

Social Rented Housing: Home Working

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the *(a)* Housing Corporation, *(b)* Tenant Services Authority and *(c)* Homes and Communities Agency has provided to social landlords on home working by tenants. [312032]

Mr. Ian Austin: In its Neighbourhood and Community Strategy of October 2006, the Housing Corporation emphasised the value of all housing associations promoting employment opportunities—including residents working from their homes.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was formed on 1 December 2008, taking over the investment and regeneration responsibilities of the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships. Provision for home-working is included in the HCA's guidance for local authorities and other partners on the development of Local Investment Plans ("Single Conversation: Further Information—Local Investment Plan"). This guidance is available via the HCA's website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/singleconversation.htm

Urban design guidance published by the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships, and now maintained by the HCA, also includes material on live-work and home-working. This guidance is available online:

http://www.urbandesigncompendium.co.uk/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Travel Information

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent travel advice he has issued in respect of the security of British citizens to Africa; and if he will make a statement. [312000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) issues regularly-reviewed Travel Advice notices for 56 countries in Africa. The advice includes information on threats to personal safety arising from political unrest, conflicts, terrorist activities, anti-British demonstrations, lawlessness, violence, natural disasters, epidemics, and aircraft and shipping safety. FCO Travel Advice is reviewed for every country every month and following any significant incident. It is revised and reissued at least every three months. In a developing crisis FCO Travel Advice may be updated several times a day. The FCO website also contains important general information on safety abroad, under the heading 'Know Before You Go' and information on World Cup 2010 can be found there. There is also a link from the FCO Travel Advice for South Africa to that page. FCO Travel Advice is based on objective assessments of the risks to British nationals and is intended to give British nationals the information they need to make their own decisions about travelling to a particular country.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: NATO Enlargement

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Bosnia-Herzegovina to be ready to be invited to participate in the NATO Membership Action Plan; and what his policy is on such membership. [311600]

David Miliband: The UK fully supports Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspiration to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and continues to provide active support to help achieve that aim. In December NATO Foreign Ministers agreed Bosnia and Herzegovina would join the Membership Action Plan (MAP) once it has achieved the necessary progress on reform. The next formal review of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress will be in spring this year.

MAP is an important tool in assisting countries to prepare for NATO membership. For a country to fully benefit from this tool it must have robust and functional political structures in place to take forward the comprehensive process and implement the wide spectrum of democratic and defence reforms required for membership.

Colombia: Human Rights

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Colombian government to seek to ensure the safety of human rights activists and lawyers in Colombia. [311363]

Chris Bryant: We regularly raise serious concerns over human rights with senior Colombian Ministers. I visited Colombia in October 2009, and during a meeting with President Uribe, urged him to do more to improve the human rights situation. I also issued a joint statement with Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez, declaring that:

> "the defence of human rights is necessary and legitimate for democracy, in a country like Colombia which is proud of being fully open and ready for international scrutiny on this subject".

I also met the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs specifically to discuss human rights earlier this week.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also raised human rights concerns during a meeting with Minister Bermudez in December 2009.

Cuba: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Cuba. [311408]

Chris Bryant: The UK's foreign policy towards Cuba is in line with the EU Common Position, which we agreed in 1996 and review annually each June at the European Council. Through engagement with both the Cuban Government and Cuban civil society, this policy aims to support the principles of pluralistic democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and an improvement of the living standards of the Cuban people. Specifically we hope to see concrete improvements in human rights, such as the release of all political prisoners, improved economic freedoms for all Cuban citizens and an end to restrictions on freedom of expression and independent trade unions. We work closely with our EU partners to further develop engagement with Cuba, including through the EU-Cuba political dialogue, and continue to look for opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations. We already co-operate at a working level on a number of issues such as climate change, child protection, counter-narcotics, and through scientific and cultural links.

Departmental Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the health and safety advice issued to each new starter upon joining his Department. [311823]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 19 January 2010]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is currently updating its health and safety induction programme and documentation. This includes the publication of a new Health and Safety induction handbook. Upon completion the FCO will make arrangements for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on proposals to extend the provisions of the Vienna Convention to locally-engaged staff in countries where embassy employees have been subject to harassment by state authorities; and if his will make a statement. [311598]

David Miliband: The current provisions of Article 7 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 (VCDR) allow sending states to appoint members of staff to its missions. There is a clear distinction in the way in which the VCDR treats staff appointed from the sending state and those recruited locally. This means that UK-based diplomatic agents, once appointed and accredited by the receiving state, are afforded immunities and privileges according to Article 31(1) of the VCDR, for example, immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state and from its civil and administrative jurisdiction, subject to limited exceptions. However, under the current VCDR provisions the consent of the receiving state is required in order to appoint as diplomatic agents any locally engaged staff who are nationals or residents of that state and this consent can be withdrawn at any time under Article 8 of the VCDR.

Our locally engaged staff are either nationals or residents of the receiving state. The fact that VCDR gives the receiving state the right to withdraw any immunity afforded to locally engaged staff at will means that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not consider that offering them immunity is a viable means of affording them any substantive additional protection, particularly in those countries where relations with the host government are sometimes strained.

Estonia: Embassies

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what environmental projects in Estonia received support from the British Embassy in that country in the last three years. [311350]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Tallinn has supported the following environmental projects in the last three years:

2006-07:

Saving the World—Policy Paper on Climate Change and Estonia: support to the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute to commission and research a policy paper on Climate Change and how it effects Estonia for production in May/June 2007

2007-08:

Climate Change in Estonia—Schools Information Campaign: funding the printing and distribution of Estonian language posters on climate change, for distribution to all secondary schools in Estonia to raise awareness of climate change issues.

Distribution of the first translation of the Executive Summary of the Stern Review in Estonia to local policy makers to help influence the climate change debate in Estonia and provide a reference tool.

A grant for Tartu university to design an Estonia-specific carbon footprint calculator to enable Estonians to calculate accurately their carbon footprint, which would then be used as an educational project with a selection of Estonian schools to enable students to calculate their footprints and ways in which they could reduce them.

2008:

Environment Ministry attendance at a key Regional Climate Change Conference in Slovenia that focuses on the opportunities for economic growth.

Visit of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director Maarin Ratnik to Wilton Park for a conference on Energy Security in the EU to offer Estonia an opportunity to discuss the impact of the European Council's conclusions on the EU's energy and climate package.

Attendance of senior researcher from Tallinn Technical university and senior specialist from Ministry of Environment on Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) Study tour in UK to increase Estonia's expertise on CCS by sharing UK's best practice and to increase general public awareness of CCS issues in relation to climate change by publishing an article written by study tour participants in well circulated Estonian press.

Visit to Estonia by Lord Giddens to give a speech at the 25th Anniversary event for the Chevening alumni event on "The Politics of Climate Change", with the aim of capitalising on their attendance to continue (through Lord Giddens) to work on the Estonian mindset regarding climate change issues, notably Estonian reliance on (environmentally unfriendly) oil shale.

Four Estonian delegates participated in a seminar on Climate Change: Everybody's Business, organised by our embassy in Riga, to increase awareness of climate change among Estonian businesses with a view to positive effects on business *2009:*

Sponsorship for Reet Aus (the only fashion designer in Estonia working exclusively with recycled goods) to attend Fashion Week in London with the aim of supporting a green clothing initiative by making them from sustainable ecologically sound procedures and raising awareness.

Support for the Estonian portal Bioneer

www.bioneer.ee

towards publishing articles on climate change in 2009.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the status of talks with *(a)* the Government of Iran and *(b)* his international counterparts on a fuel supply for the Tehran nuclear research reactor; and if he will make a statement. [311596]

David Miliband: The UK is not directly involved in the talks on the International Atomic Energy Agency's proposal of October 2009. However, we support the proposal and are disappointed by Iran's failure to engage on it. This proposal could have begun to rebuild confidence in Iran's intentions by guaranteeing that part of Iran's fuel stock was used for legitimate purposes. I remain in close touch with my E3+3 and EU colleagues on all the issues associated with Iran's nuclear programme.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on further *(a)* UN and *(b)* EU sanctions on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [311597]

David Miliband: The Government continue to pursue the dual track strategy of engagement and pressure to address the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. Consideration of further appropriate UN measures designed to influence the regime's decision making on the nuclear file has now begun. With regard to EU sanctions, I refer the right hon. Member to the December European Council Declaration on Iran, where the EU clearly committed to considering further measures to accompany UN action.

Kashmir

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent in Kashmir in the last two years. [312475]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In both Indian and Pakistan Administered Kashmir, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent a total of £599,146 in financial year 2008-09 and expects to spend £1,011,012 in financial year 2009-10. This expenditure is on project activity funded from three sources—the Conflict Pool (which is a joint FCO, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence fund), the Bilateral Programme Budget and the Counter Terrorism (Radicalisation) fund. The total expected spend on project activity across these three funds in Indian and Pakistan Administered Kashmir from 2008 to financial year 2009-10 will be £1,610,158.

National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department are responsible for *(a)* the central coordination of activities and *(b)* monitoring the effect of activities undertaken under the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. [312084]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Central co-ordination of activities under the UK National Action Plan, jointly developed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is within the FCO carried out by the conflict policy team. Two members of staff cover this work as part of their wider duties, with additional support provided by others as necessary.

There is also a range of staff across the FCO and wider government network involved with the implementation and monitoring of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The FCO does not hold information on the number of staff in its overseas network with this specific responsibility as part of their duties.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when HM Ambassador to Nigeria last met *(a)* the President and *(b)* the Vice President of that country. [311651]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our high commissioner to Nigeria last met President Yar'Adua on 5 November 2009, during the visit of my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock, the Minister of State for Africa, to Nigeria. He last met Vice President Goodluck Jonathan on 30 December 2009.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of UK relations with Nigeria, with particular reference to recent developments in that country. [311652]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK continues to have a strong bilateral relationship with Nigeria as one of our key partners in Africa, and remains in frequent dialogue with the Government of Nigeria at all levels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Nigerian counterpart on 8 January 2010,and Baroness Kinnock, the Minister of State for Africa co-hosted an event for the Nigerian diaspora in the UK on 20 January 2010.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the President or Vice President of Nigeria; what reports his Department has received on the state of health of the President; whether he is taking steps to encourage the Nigerian government and military to adhere to the Nigerian Constitution; and if he will make a statement. [311653]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had recent discussions with the President or Vice President of Nigeria. However he last spoke to Foreign Minister Maduekwe on 8 January 2010. During their conversation my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed his concern for the health of President Yar'Adua, passed on his good wishes for the President's speedy recovery, and reiterated the UK's support for the Nigerian Government's determination to act in accordance with the Nigerian constitution.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310841]

Chris Bryant: Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available. All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to raise the restrictions placed by the government of Israel on access for humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials into Gaza at the next discussion of the Middle East Quartet; and if he will make a statement. [311399]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have consistently pressed the Government of Israel to ease border restrictions and permit the passage of humanitarian aid and essential reconstruction material into Gaza. The EU as a whole has made similar calls, including in the Conclusions of the December Foreign Affairs Council and the Quartet has called for Israel "to allow for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza". We will continue to raise this issue at the highest levels.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions a Minister from his Department has visited Gaza to assess the *(a)* human rights and *(b)* political situation there since the conflict in Gaza began; and if he will make a statement. [311398]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for International Development visited Gaza on 1 March 2009. During his visit to the region he met with Israeli officials and discussed issues around access for humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials. Officials for the Department for International Development (DFID) visit Gaza frequently, and meet with other organisations and agencies who work in Gaza. The Secretary of State is kept up-to-date with all aspects of the situation in Gaza including human rights and the political environment.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of progress on the objectives of the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement; and what plans he has for the Government's role as guarantor of that agreement. [311619]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is a guarantor of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and is committed to its full implementation. There has been some important recent progress with the passing of referenda legislation in December 2009. However much remains to be done, and we continue to press the parties to resolve key outstanding issues such as creating Referendum Commissions, and resolving outstanding disputes on wealth-sharing and the census. We also call on all parties to put in place the necessary conditions for credible elections, a key CPA benchmark.

My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock was in Sudan 11 to 13 January 2010 to reiterate messages on election preparation and post-2011 planning. We are also supporting work by Chatham House to encourage dialogue between the parties on important post-referendum issues. The UK announced a further £54 million to support Sudan, bringing to £200 million our annual commitment to humanitarian aid, development and peacekeeping in Sudan.

Turkey: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Turkey. [311413]

Chris Bryant: The UK has four key objectives as regards to Turkey. Firstly, to support Turkey's EU accession process, which strongly benefits both the EU and Turkey. Secondly, we support internal reform in Turkey to enhance the democratic process to protect human rights especially those of minorities. Thirdly, to engage with Turkey on regional issues, which include Cyprus, Afghanistan, the middle east peace process, Iran, and Iraq. Fourthly, we aim to co-operate on key international issues, such as climate change and energy security.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Building Regulations: Advertising

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much expenditure under each budgetary heading his Department has incurred on advertising competent person schemes in each year since 2002. [311419]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has incurred expenditure of £48,000 since 2002 on publishing, including reprints, a leaflet, "Building work, replacements and repairs to your home", which was published specifically to publicise competent person schemes. Information about the schemes is also available on the Department's website and in other guidance publications about the Building Regulations.

Business

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that companies entering liquidation are not able to reform under a different name in order to avoid liabilities. [312551]

Ian Lucas: There is nothing in law to prevent a director of a company that has failed from forming a new company to carry on a business similar to, or even identical to, that of the failed company—providing he or she has not been disqualified from acting in the management of a limited company or subject to some other form of legal restriction such as personal bankruptcy. Directors involved in a liquidated company cannot usually be involved in the management of a new company which is known by the same, or a substantially similar, name. This has been the legal position for many years and there are no plans to change it.

Failure does not necessarily imply misconduct on the part of directors. Action can be taken against directors of failed companies to disqualify them from acting in the management of a company if the Secretary of State considers them to be unfit. They can also be prosecuted or ordered by the court to make a personal contribution towards the assets of the failed company in appropriate circumstances.

There is a robust enforcement regime in place. In the year 2008-09 an average of around five directors were disqualified every working day. In addition, and again on average, one individual was sentenced every working day having been convicted of offences following prosecutions brought by my Department as a result of referrals from the Insolvency Service.

Departmental Contracts

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contractual disputes with third party suppliers his Department lost as a result of unenforceable penalty clauses in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2009-10 to date; what (i) the cumulative monetary value of the contracts involved in each year and (ii) the amount awarded to the supplier in each case was; and how much the Department was entitled to but did not claim under such disputes in each year. [311415]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's contract terms do not as standard include a liquidated damages or "penalty" condition. A liquidated damages clause would only be used on a case by case basis where warranted by the particular characteristics of the procurement requirement.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department incurred as a result of contractual disputes with third party suppliers in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 *(d)* 2008-09 and *(e)* 2009-10 to date; and how much was awarded to each supplier in each such case. [311416]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employs. [310870]

Mr. McFadden: There are *(a)* 3,241 full-time and *(b)* part-time staff employed by BIS as at 30 September.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what training sessions were attended by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department at public expense in each of the last three years. [302945]

Mr. McFadden: Training is provided to Ministers and special advisers if required in order to carry out their respective duties effectively under the "Ministerial Code" and the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers". Details of training provided to Government Ministers by the National School of Government are publicly available and can be found at:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policy/Ministerial Programme/Table.asp

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [309915]

Mr. McFadden: Training is provided to Ministers if required on a range of issues including handling the media, in order to carry out their duties effectively under the "Ministerial Code".

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what volume of waste his Department and its predecessors generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of that waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311836]

Mr. McFadden: This Department is required to report performance data on volumes of waste generated and its recycling rates annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process. All waste is disposed of securely in line with our waste duty of care and BIS does not send any materials in the categories listed to landfill. All waste is either recycled or sent to an energy from waste facility.

The latest assessment of government's performance against this target was published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on 18 December 2009, and is available on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_progress.asp

Information on reporting years prior to 2008/09 was collated and published by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) can be found on the SDC website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk

English Language

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many English language schools provide language training to a standard sufficient for students to meet language criteria in visa applications. [304562]

Kevin Brennan: In 2008/09 (provisional), there were 468 providers (including colleges, local authorities and other organisations) in England with Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded learners on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses at Entry Level (1,2 and 3), Level 1 or Level 2.

The speaking and listening component of ESOL qualifications at Entry Levels 1, 2 or 3 can be acceptable evidence for the purposes of indefinite leave to remain or citizenship.

The legal requirement for visa applications is to provide evidence of the achievement of a qualification through one of the approved ESOL awarding organisations who must ensure that all colleges and centres offering ESOL qualifications are delivering the full course. Ofqual is the interim independent regulator for qualifications in England and will become the permanent regulator from 1 April 2010). Their duty is to ensure that all qualifications, including those for ESOL, are of an appropriate standard; and to take action with awarding bodies if they are not.

The UK Border Agency works closely with Ofqual to ensure that the appropriate standards are maintained. The UK Border Agency maintains a list of organisations licensed to sponsor migrants under the points based system and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Higher Education: Children in Care

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will take steps to encourage children in local authority care to apply for admission to university. [308154]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to widening participation of young people in care in higher education. To this end we have placed a requirement on local authorities to pay a £2,000 bursary to all care leavers who pursue a recognised course of higher education. This entitlement has been publicised through the National Care Advisory Service, which provides advice and support for children and young people aged 13-25 in and from care, and the 2008/09 Aim Higher Tutor's Resource Materials for young people in years 12 and 13 produced by the then Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

All local authorities have a duty under the Children Act 1989 to promote the educational achievement of the children and young people they look after. As part of this duty, statutory guidance sets out the importance of creating a culture of high aspirations among children in care, which includes setting out in their personal education plans the support needed to achieve long-term goals such as the pursuit of higher education.

In addition, the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 extends the entitlement to a personal adviser for care leavers from 21 to 25 where they remain in or return to education.

Lord Mandelson

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has visited *(a)* Dorneywood, *(b)* Chevening and *(c)* Chequers since his appointment. [312187]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has visited Chequers four times since his appointment. He has not visited Dorneywood or Chevening in that time.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what occasions the Secretary of State has met Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in an official capacity since becoming Secretary of State. [312271]

Mr. McFadden: None.

Parents' Learning Allowance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the *(a)* eligibility of Susan Coombe a constituent of the hon. Member for Torbay ref. 50247451102, for parent learning allowance to be confirmed and *(b)* first payment under that allowance to be made to that constituent. [310990]

Mr. Lammy: I will write to the hon. Member on this matter.

TREASURY

Banks: Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether UK banks in which the Government have a stake will pay bonuses this year. [311949]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's shareholdings in financial institutions are managed at arm's length and on a commercial basis by UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI).

The bonus pools for Government investee banks have not yet been determined for 2009.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which websites his Department's staff are prevented from accessing from departmental networked computers. [311842]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Filtering software is used within the Department to block access to certain inappropriate categories of website . In addition, and consistent with central government security guidance, measures are in place to block access to websites that contain potentially harmful software content, or malware. It is departmental policy not to publish precise details of the measures used, or what they block, as this could provide useful information for individuals who might seek to attack our IT systems.

Economic Situation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the productivity of the UK in relation to other G7 countries since 1991. [311753]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury and BIS are jointly responsible for Public Service Agreement 1 (PSA 1) to raise the productivity of the UK economy. One of the objectives of PSA 1 is to narrow the output per worker productivity gap between the UK and comparator nations (the USA, Germany and France).

To assess progress against narrowing the productivity gap, HM Treasury use ONS data from their biannual International Comparisons of Productivity[1] statistical release. Results are presented for the UK relative to the US, France, Germany, Japan, Canada, Italy and the G7 in aggregate. Since 1991, the start of the ONS data series, the UK has experienced faster average productivity growth than all other G7 countries[2].

[1] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=9671

[2] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/ICP_HeadlineTables.xls

Excise Duties: Fuel Oil

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice has been issued to farmers on the use of rebated fuel in tractors and other agricultural machines engaged in snow-clearing operations on public roads. [312344]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Public notice 75—Fuel for road vehicles, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&pageLabel=pageExcise_ShowContent&propertyType=document&id=HMCE_CL_000164

and in print from its helpline, explains the circumstances under which certain 'excepted vehicles', including tractors, other agricultural machines and snow clearing vehicles are entitled to use rebated fuel.

Government Departments: Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which company won the contract for the Government Air Programme. [312161]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer I gave him on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 499W.

Industrial Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the health and safety advice issued to each new starter upon joining his Department. [311817]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department provides induction training to each new starter.

Copies of the main documents relating to Health and Safety induction training for new starters will be placed in the Library.

Job Creation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 8 on page 33 of his Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, if he will publish the evidential basis for the estimate that up to half a million jobs have been protected by the Bank of England and the Government during the recession. [312242]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 846W.

Non-domestic Rates: Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fire stations *(a)* were on the 1997 and *(b)* are on the 2010 Rating List. [311709]

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fire stations there were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List with special category code 101 in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [311664]

Ian Pearson: The number of fire stations in the 1995 Local Rating Lists, which cover Specialist Category Codes 101 and 964, as at 1 April 1997 totalled 1,464.

The number of fire stations in the Draft 2010 Rating List as at 2 November 2009 totalled 1,470.

Information on each local authority area is given in the following table:

	Fire stations	
Billing authority	*1995 Rating List as at 1 April 1997 (SCAT 964)*	*2010 Rating List as at 2 November 2009 (SCAT 101)*
Adur	2	2
Allerdale	8	8
Alnwick	3	3
Amber Valley	6	6
Arun	5	5
Ashfield	2	2
Ashford	7	6
Aylesbury Vale	7	6
Babergh	5	5
Barking and Dagenham	0	2
Barnet	4	4
Barnsley	5	4
Barrow-in-Furness	4	3
Basildon	3	3
Basingstoke and Deane	5	5
Bassetlaw	5	5
Bath and North East Somerset	5	5
Bedford	3	3
Berwick-upon-Tweed	5	5
Bexley	3	3
Birmingham	17	16
Blaby	1	1
Blackburn with Darwen	2	2
Blackpool	3	3
Blyth Valley	2	2
Bolsover	3	3
Bolton	4	4
Boston	3	3
Bournemouth	3	3
Bracknell Forest	2	2
Bradford	10	11
Braintree	6	6

	Fire stations	
Billing authority	*1995 Rating List as at 1 April 1997 (SCAT 964)*	*2010 Rating List as at 2 November 2009 (SCAT 101)*
Breckland	6	6
Brent	3	3
Brentwood	3	2
Bridgnorth	3	3
Brighton and Hove	3	3
Bristol	6	6
Broadland	4	4
Bromley	4	4
Bromsgrove	1	1
Broxbourne	2	2
Broxstowe	3	4
Burnley	2	2
Bury	3	3
Calderdale	7	7
Cambridge	1	1
Camden	4	4
Cannock Chase	0	2
Canterbury	4	4
Caradon	5	6
Carlisle	3	3
Carrick	3	3
Castle Morpeth	2	2
Castle Point	2	2
Charnwood	3	3
Chelmsford	3	3
Cheltenham	2	1
Cherwell	5	5
Cheshire West and Chester	7	7
Chesterfield	2	2
Chester-le-Street	1	1
Chichester	6	6
Chiltern	3	3
Chorley	1	2
Christchurch	1	1
City of London	0	1
Colchester	5	4
Congleton	4	4
Copeland	6	6
Corby	2	1
Cotswold	7	7
Coventry	4	4
Craven	3	3
Crawley	2	2
Crewe and Nantwich	3	3
Croydon	5	5
Dacorum	6	5
Darlington	1	1
Dartford	2	2
Daventry	5	5
Derby	3	3
Derbyshire Dales	6	6
Derwentside	3	1
Doncaster	7	7
Dover	8	8
Dudley	5	5
Durham	1	1
Ealing	3	4
Easington	3	3
East Cambridgeshire	5	5
East Devon	6	8
East Dorset	4	4
East Hampshire	6	6
East Hertfordshire	6	6
East Lindsey	11	11
East Northamptonshire	5	5
East Riding of Yorkshire	14	13
East Staffordshire	5	5
Eastbourne	1	1
Eastleigh	5	4
Eden	7	7
Elmbridge	3	3
Enfield	3	3
Epping Forest	4	4
Epsom and Ewell	1	1
Erewash	2	3
Exeter	2	3
Fareham	3	2
Fenland	5	5
Forest Heath	3	3
Forest of Dean	4	4
Fylde	3	3
Gateshead	4	4
Gedling	2	2
Gloucester	1	1
Gosport	1	1
Gravesham	1	1
Great Yarmouth	3	3
Greenwich	7	6
Guildford	2	2
Hackney	4	4
Halton	2	2
Hambleton	5	6
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	2
Harborough	4	4
Haringey	2	2
Harlow	2	2
Harrogate	6	6
Harrow	2	2
Hart	4	4
Hartlepool	2	2
Hastings	2	2
Havant	4	4
Havering	1	3
Herefordshire	12	13
Hertsmere	4	4
High Peak	5	5
Hillingdon	3	3
Hinckley and Bosworth	3	2
Horsham	6	6
Hounslow	3	3
Huntingdonshire	7	7
Hyndburn	3	4
Ipswich	2	2
Isle of Wight	11	11

	Fire stations	
Billing authority	*1995 Rating List as at 1 April 1997 (SCAT 964)*	*2010 Rating List as at 2 November 2009 (SCAT 101)*
Isles of Scilly	1	2
Islington	3	3
Kennet	6	6
Kensington and Chelsea	4	4
Kerrier	5	5
Kettering	4	4
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	10	11
Kingston upon Hull	7	6
Kingston upon Thames	2	2
Kirklees	11	11
Knowsley	3	3
Lambeth	4	5
Lancaster	6	6
Leeds	14	13
Leicester	3	3
Lewes	4	4
Lewisham	4	5
Lichfield	2	2
Lincoln	1	2
Liverpool	11	10
Luton	2	2
Macclesfield	5	5
Maidstone	5	5
Maldon	4	4
Malvern Hills	2	2
Manchester	8	8
Mansfield	2	2
Medway	9	9
Melton	1	1
Mendip	5	5
Merton	3	3
Mid Bedfordshire	6	6
Mid Devon	4	4
Mid Suffolk	6	5
Mid Sussex	6	6
Middlesbrough	2	3
Milton Keynes	6	5
Mole Valley	2	2
New Forest	11	11
Newark and Sherwood	6	6
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2	3
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	6	5
Newham	4	4
North Cornwall	6	6
North Devon	10	10
North Dorset	4	4
North East Derbyshire	2	2
North East Lincolnshire	5	5
North Hertfordshire	3	3
North Kesteven	6	6
North Lincolnshire	8	9
North Norfolk	8	8
North Shropshire	7	7
North Somerset	9	9
North Tyneside	2	2
North Warwickshire	3	3
North West Leicestershire	3	3
North Wiltshire	6	6
Northampton	3	3
Norwich	2	4
Nottingham	3	3
Nuneaton and Bedworth	2	2
Oadby and Wigston	1	1
Oldham	3	3
Oswestry	1	1
Oxford	2	2
Pendle	4	4
Penwith	3	3
Peterborough	4	4
Plymouth	5	5
Poole	2	2
Portsmouth	3	3
Preston	2	2
Purbeck	3	3
Reading	4	4
Redbridge	3	3
Redcar and Cleveland	7	8
Redditch	1	1
Reigate and Banstead	1	1
Restormel	7	7
Ribble Valley	2	2
Richmond upon Thames	2	2
Richmondshire	5	5
Rochdale	3	3
Rochford	3	3
Rossendale	3	3
Rother	5	5
Rotherham	6	4
Rugby	2	2
Runnymede	2	2
Rushcliffe	3	3
Rushmoor	1	1
Rutland	4	2
Ryedale	5	5
Salford	6	5
Salisbury	5	5
Sandwell	6	7
Scarborough	8	8
Sedgefield	3	3
Sedgemoor	4	4
Sefton	4	4
Selby	2	2
Sevenoaks	6	6
Sheffield	10	10
Shepway	5	5
Shrewsbury and Atcham	2	2
Slough	2	2
Solihull	2	2
South Bedfordshire	3	3

	Fire stations	
Billing authority	*1995 Rating List as at 1 April 1997 (SCAT 964)*	*2010 Rating List as at 2 November 2009 (SCAT 101)*
South Buckinghamshire	3	2
South Cambridgeshire	5	5
South Derbyshire	2	2
South Gloucestershire	4	4
South Hams	7	7
South Holland	5	5
South Kesteven	6	6
South Lakeland	12	12
South Norfolk	7	7
South Northamptonshire	2	2
South Oxfordshire	7	7
South Ribble	3	3
South Shropshire	7	7
South Somerset	8	8
South Staffordshire	5	5
South Tyneside	2	2
Southampton	3	3
Southend-on-Sea	2	2
Southwark	4	4
Spelthorne	2	2
St. Albans	4	5
St. Edmundsbury	6	5
St. Helens	4	3
Stafford	4	4
Staffordshire Moorlands	6	5
Stevenage	1	2
Stockport	5	5
Stockton-on-Tees	4	4
Stoke-on-Trent	3	3
Stratford-on-Avon	10	9
Stroud	5	5
Suffolk Coastal	8	7
Sunderland	6	6
Surrey Heath	2	2
Sutton	2	2
Swale	6	6
Swindon	3	3
Tameside	4	4
Tamworth	1	1
Tandridge	3	3
Taunton Deane	3	3
Teesdale	2	2
Teignbridge	4	7
Telford and Wrekin	4	4
Tendring	6	6
Test Valley	3	3
Tewkesbury	2	2
Thanet	4	4
Three Rivers	1	1
Thurrock	3	3
Tonbridge and Malling	3	3
Torbay	3	3
Torridge	5	5
Tower Hamlets	6	6
Trafford	3	3
Tunbridge Wells	7	7
Tynedale	6	6
Uttlesford	6	6
Vale of White Horse	3	3
Wakefield	9	9
Walsall	4	4
Waltham Forest	2	4
Wandsworth	3	3
Wansbeck	1	1
Warrington	3	3
Warwick	3	3
Watford	2	2
Waveney	8	7
Waverley	5	5
Wealden	11	10
Wear Valley	3	3
Wellingborough	2	2
Welwyn Hatfield	3	3
West Berkshire	6	5
West Devon	8	8
West Dorset	6	8
West Lancashire	3	3
West Lindsey	5	6
West Oxfordshire	7	7
West Somerset	4	4
West Wiltshire	5	5
Westminster	4	4
Weymouth and Portland	2	2
Wigan	4	4
Winchester	7	6
Windsor and Maidenhead	4	4
Wirral	6	6
Woking	1	1
Wokingham	3	3
Wolverhampton	4	4
Worcester	1	1
Worthing	1	1
Wychavon	5	5
Wycombe	5	4
Wyre	3	3
Wyre Forest	3	3
York	2	3

Note:
Numbers may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of *(a)* central and *(b)* local government contracts required to be advertised on Tenders Electronic Daily, the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union in the last 12 months. [312160]

Ian Pearson: The current thresholds are:

Supply and Service Contracts

Local Authorities - £156,442

Central Government - £101,323

Works Contracts

All authorities - £3,927,260

Works contracts cover capital construction projects, buildings, roads and their repair. Supplies contracts will be for the purchase or lease of food, goods and other equipment. Services cover the balance and include maintenance services, transport, insurance, consultancy, waste disposal and others. The higher threshold for works contracts reflects the higher cost of construction contracts.

Revenue and Customs: Peterhead

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes was (i) collected and (ii) administered by the HM Revenue and Customs office in Peterhead in each year since 2006. [311959]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost due to the work required to extract it from HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were based at the office of HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisations in Peterhead in each year since 2006. [311960]

Mr. Timms: The number of staff based in HM Revenue and Customs office in Peterhead for each year since 2006 is shown in the following table:

As at 1 April	*Headcount*	*FTE*[1]
2006	23	20.20
2007	20	17.59
2008	18	15.40
2009	10	8.40

[1] FTE relates to full time equivalent.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices the Shares Fishermen's Scheme will be administered following the closure of Keith House, Peterhead; and what steps will be taken by HMRC to retain the expertise of its staff in respect of the fishing industry following the closure. [311961]

Mr. Timms: The Share Fisherman Scheme will be administered from the HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) office in Aberdeen where other work specific to the fishing industry is already carried out. HMRC's expectation is that staff in Keith House, Peterhead currently administering the scheme will relocate with their work if they are able to do so, enabling them to use their existing skills and expertise. Individual options will be explored for those who cannot relocate and the work will be continued from Aberdeen by staff with fishing industry experience.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation HM Revenue and Customs undertook with the fishing industry over the closure of Keith House, Peterhead. [311963]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Custo[illegible]HMRC) local business managers in Peterhead invited the Scottish Fishermen's Federation to comment on the proposed closure of Keith House as part of its Regional Review Programme.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of service is of staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisations at each of its locations in Scotland. [311966]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Town	*Office name*	*Average length of service (years)*
Aberdeen	Ruby House	24.5
Ayr	Russell House	25.8
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	4.0
Buckie	Moray House	22.4
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	25.2
Cumbernauld	St. Mungos Road	14.8
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	25.1
Dumfries	Government Buildings Dumfries	25.1
Dundee	Caledonian House Dundee	23.4
	Sidlaw House	4.9
Dunfermline	Merchiston House	28.2
Dunoon	Auchencraig	18.7
East Kilbride	Hawbank Stores	19.6
	Plaza Tower	8.4
	Queensway House	18.0
Edinburgh	44 York Place	23.9
	Argyle House	14.6
	Clarendon House Edinburgh	24.4
	Elgin House	22.3
	Erskine House	14.0
	Grayfield House	17.1
	Meldrum House	23.1
	Saughton House	21.0
Elgin	Phoenix House Elgin	25.9
Falkirk	Grahame House	20.7
Galashiels	New Reiver House	27.7
Glasgow	Blythswood House	21.7
	Cotton House	21.4
	Portcullis House Glasgow	13.9
Glenrothes	Saltire House	17.8
Grangemouth	Custom House Grangemouth	25.7
Greenock	99 Dalrymple Street	28.6
	Custom House Greenock	21.8
Hamilton	1 Barrack Street	26.1
Hawick	Crown Building Hawick	21.2
Inverness	Longman House	32.9
	River House	24.2
Irvine	Marress House	26.6
Kirkcaldy	26 Victoria Road	27.0
Lerwick	Charlotte House	41.3

Town	*Office name*	*Average length of service (years)*
Livingston	Almondvale Shopping Centre	20.6
	Barbára Ritchie House	4.9
	Pentland House	20.0
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	26.3
Oban	Mathieson House	44.4
Paisley	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	22.5
	Gilmour House	27.8
	Terminal Building Glasgow Airport	33.7
Perth	1 to 3 Water Vennel	22.2
Peterhead	Keith House	19.5
Rothesay	9 King Street	26.7
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	26.0
Ullapool	24 West Argyll Street	31.6
Wick	Government Buildings and Custom House Wick	24.3

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which estate partners HM Revenue and Customs holds contracts relating to accommodation and facilities management for its offices in Scotland. [311968]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) main estate partner is Mapeley with whom it holds the Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) contract relating to accommodation and facilities management for offices in Scotland and throughout the UK. HMRC also has estate contracts with London and Regional Properties for two offices in Scotland, one in Edinburgh and one in Glasgow.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes have received zero carbon stamp duty relief in each month since the relief was introduced. [311708]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The stamp duty land tax relief (SDLT) for zero carbon homes was introduced to help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of micro-generation, and sets a gold standard for green homes. Few currently exist, but the purpose of the relief is to act as signal. We have always made it clear that the SDLT relief for zero carbon homes would evolve and we expect to see more of these homes built in the future.

24 homes have qualified for the zero carbon homes relief since October 2007. Due to the small numbers involved, HMRC tax-payer confidentiality obligations do not allow the requested breakdown of relief granted by month.

Valuation Office: Personal Records

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what databases containing personal data the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* maintains and *(b)* has access to. [311665]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) maintains a number of databases to support its work, some of which is personal data. In addition, the VOA has access to databases owned by third parties, which are either publicly available or which the VOA has a statutory duty to access in order to carry out its work. These databases may contain personal data.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 25 January 2010

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Shops

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister whether the prices of items in the Downing Street Gift Shop were increased when the value added tax rate returned to 17.5 per cent. [312373]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 580W.

Government Departments: Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on Government Departments: security (1) who would be consulted when taking a decision on whether to refer a case to the Security Commission; [312455]

(2) and to the answer to the hon. Member for Southend West of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 712W, on Damian Green, for what reason the Security Commission was not requested to investigate in the case of the Home Office leaks that subsequently lead to the Cabinet Office asking the police to investigate. [312456]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answers given on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1166W and 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 712W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Civil Service: Pay

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that employees of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(c)* the Northern Ireland Courts Service receive settlement terms and back-pay the same as those awarded to civil servants in equivalent paybands working for departments of the Northern Ireland Executive under the Northern Ireland Civil Service Equal Pay Settlement. [311772]

Paul Goggins: The equal pay settlement for staff in the Northern Ireland civil service departments does not apply to staff in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO).

The Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance has indicated that they would like to discuss this matter with NIO management and a meeting has been arranged. Discussions are ongoing with PSNI on whether there are equal pay issues to be addressed.

Prior to the devolution of policing and justice functions, it is for the Northern Ireland Courts Service to consider any equal pay matters relevant to that organisation.

The NIO has its own pay and grading arrangements and does not accept that there are equal pay issues to be addressed in the Department. This will of course be a matter for discussion with the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance.

Crimes of Violence: Children

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted of an assault in which the victim was a child in each of the last three years. [312313]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. Northern Ireland conviction data do not include victim information in relation to the commission of an offence. Therefore it is possible only to give the number of convictions for those assault offences which by their definition refer to a child or children. These are: 'common assault on a child or young person' and 'aggravated assault on a male child'.

The data given in the following table cover the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest years for which figures are available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of convictions for assault of a child 2004-06[1]

	Convictions
2004	12
2005	8
2006	7

[1] Data do not include sexual offences against a child or children.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310812]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not made any estimate of the food waste arising from the Department. My Department strives to ensure that purchases match demand and that, where possible, only peelings and cuttings are disposed of.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312544]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has spend on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years.

		(£)
	2007-08	*2008-09*
New furnishings	339,774	233,359
Works of art	2,750	3,100
New vehicles	0	0

Expenditure on new furnishings is based on costs coded to the furniture expense codes on the NIO finance system. All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of the results from his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey to his Department was. [311477]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be publishing its June 2009 staff survey results on the NIO website on 1 February 2010. Following publication, we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The Northern Ireland Office staff survey was designed and delivered by the NIO Business Improvement Team. The Department did not incur any costs in the design and delivery of the survey.

Domestic Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of domestic violence were reported to the police in each *(a)* police district and *(b)* council area in Northern Ireland in 2008-09. [312318]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Driving Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted of *(a)* a motoring offence that resulted in a fatality and *(b)* careless driving in each of the last two years. [312404]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 gives the number of convictions for motoring offences causing death, while Table 2 gives convictions for careless driving (and related offences).

Data cover the calendar years 2005 and 2006 (the latest years for which figures are available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number of convictions for motoring offences causing death 2005 and 2006

	Number
2005	9
2006	13

Table 2: Number of convictions for careless driving/driving without due care and attention 2005 and 2006[1, 2]

	Number
2005	1,597
2006	1,458

[1] Includes convictions for the offences 'driving without reasonable consideration for others', 'cause grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly when unfit' and causing grievous bodily injury by driving carelessly with excess alcohol'.

[2] Excludes careless driving offences causing death and dangerous driving offences.

Racial Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were subject to a racially-motivated attack in each *(a)* police district and *(b)* council district in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [312316]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of a serious sexual assault in each year since 2007. [312403]

Paul Goggins: The following table outlines the number of prosecutions and convictions for serious sexual assaults by type of offence for the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest years for which figures are available).

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Prosecutions and convictions for serious sexual assault offences by type of offence 2004 to 2006

	2004		*2005*		*2006*	
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Rape	29	15	21	4	32	11
Attempted rape	8	3	9	4	5	0
Gross indecency with child	5	3	10	6	6	5
Buggery with male person, 16 years or over without consent	1	0	0	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years of age	11	6	3	1	7	3
Buggery with a woman	1	1	0	0	0	0
Buggery with a girl	3	1	2	0	1	0

Prosecutions and convictions for serious sexual assault offences by type of offence 2004 to 2006

	2004		2005		2006	
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	4	4	4	3	3	3
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years	3	2	4	4	6	5
Incest by man on female	0	0	1	1	1	1
Forcibly abducting a female with intent to carnally know her	0	0	1	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female	89	57	85	51	109	73
Indecent assault on male	20	17	16	11	14	8
Indecent assault on female child	8	3	20	18	5	2
Indecent assault on male child	6	4	8	5	1	0
Total	188	116	184	108	190	111

SCOTLAND

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312546]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office spend is shown in the following table:

			£
	Furnishings	*Art*	*Vehicles*
2007-08	13,347	514	0
2008-09	5,763	0	0

WALES

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the *(a)* Department, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies for which he has responsibility plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage; and if he will publish the research or criteria on which decisions about participation in the campaign have been based. [312469]

Mr. David: As an associated office of the Ministry of Justice, the Wales Office is covered by and contributes to the targets and sustainability framework developed by that Ministry. The Wales Office has no agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

My Department does, however, take its impact on the environment seriously, and has for example reduced carbon emissions by 85 per cent. since 1999-2000. We will continue to look for ways to reduce emissions still further.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys were provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department since April 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [313169]

Mr. David: The number of mobile telephones and BlackBerrys provided to Ministers and special advisers in the Wales Office since April 2009 is given in the following table:

		Number
	Mobile telephones	*BlackBerrys*
Ministers	0	0
Special advisers	0	2

The Wales Office is provided with its IT and telephone equipment through the Ministry of Justice and does not directly purchase BlackBerrys or mobile telephones. Consequently information related to cost is not held.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [312515]

Mr. David: In 2007 a refurbishment program was undertaken to Gwydyr House at a cost of £52,900. This involved the replacement of curtains provided for security reasons, worn carpets replaced on health and safety grounds and the replacement of worn and damaged furniture. In 2008 my Department committed no expenditure on furnishings. In 2009, following extensive structural work on the props in our basement, new furniture was purchased to provide us with a dedicated Video Conferencing Room at a total cost of £8,186.

All artwork is on loan from the National Museum of Wales or the Government Art Collection.

All vehicles used by the Wales Office are leased through the Government Car and Despatch agency.

Tomorrow's Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of Tomorrow's Wales since the 2007 National Assembly for Wales election. [312800]

Mr. Hain: I have had one such meeting on 28 October 2009.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register: Second Homes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission provides to second home owners on their eligibility to register to vote in their electoral area of their second home. [313091]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that general guidance is provided on its website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

This explains that the decision to register an elector rests with the local electoral registration officer (ERO) who will consider the circumstances of each case. Paying council tax on a second home does not qualify a person for registration in that area. The guidance directs people to contact their ERO for clarification.

The Commission's guidance manual for EROs contains advice on registering electors in respect of a second address.

General Election

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the merits of holding a national referendum on the same day as a general election. [311782]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is for Parliament to decide the date when a national referendum should be held.

However, if asked for advice on a proposal to combine a referendum with an election, the Commission would consider the facts relating to that specific combination, looking at what the benefits or drawbacks to the voter would be. Relevant factors would include whether any significant change in the electoral process was being applied for the first time and the likely increase in turnout resulting from combination. The Commission's priority is that any combined event should be well run and easy for voters to understand and participate in.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on general elections, what evidence the Electoral Commission holds on the effects on timing of vote counting on the accuracy of the count. [311819]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it received representations from returning officers and electoral administrators as part of its 2005 review of the timing of counts at future combined Scottish parliamentary and local government elections, which suggested that staff fatigue arising from conducting an overnight Scottish Parliament count followed by a complex local government count the following day could lead to the accuracy of the count being called into question.

However, the Commission further informs me that specific, statistical evidence on the relative accuracy of Thursday and Friday counts would be difficult to collate, not only because there have been relatively few counts commenced on Friday morning in recent years, but also given the many different variables which could affect accuracy.

General Election 2010

Mr. Evennett: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what information the Electoral Commission holds on the number of election counts that are not planned to commence on the evening of polling day in the general election. [312132]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has asked all returning officers to provide information about their current plans for counting ballot papers at the next UK parliamentary general election. This information has been made available in the House of Commons Library.

In summary, as of 7 January 2010, returning officers for 586 out of 650 constituencies had provided information. Of these, 52 currently do not plan to count ballot papers on the evening of polling day at the general election. A further 17 have indicated they may defer counting in the event that the general election is combined with local authority elections, and 187 were still undecided.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value was of allowances paid to his Department's civilian staff based in Afghanistan in 2008-09. [312722]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A total of £2,517,957 was paid in allowances to MOD civilian staff based in Afghanistan during financial year 2008-09.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to support and promote provincial and district level governance in Afghanistan outside the Kabul district. [309374]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 6 January 2010.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 87W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how many personnel *(a)* wounded and *(b)* deployed outside the wire of a main operating base in Afghanistan have not been issued with a morphine auto injector. [312804]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All military personnel deployed 'outside the wire' in Afghanistan are issued with a morphine auto injector, in accordance with standard operating instructions.

Aircraft Carriers: Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he expects to allocate in respect of contract work related to the new aircraft carrier project to be undertaken in Northern Ireland. [313194]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Subcontracts for the Queen Elizabeth (QE) class are not allocated but awarded via a selection process based on competition. Contracts have been awarded to over 50 suppliers based in the UK, some of which may have facilities in Northern Ireland. However, we are not aware of any work being based in Northern Ireland at this time. A number of subcontracts have yet to be competed and companies within Northern Ireland remain free to bid.

Anniversaries

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparations he has made for the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain; and if he will make a statement. [312567]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Royal Air Force is developing a comprehensive plan for a series of events to commemorate and celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Many of these events are being arranged in conjunction with service charities, veterans' organisations and associations. The principal event of the celebrations will be the Annual Service of Commemoration and Dedication to be held in Westminster Abbey on 19 September and the statue of Sir Keith Park will be also be unveiled in Waterloo Place in September. In due course a comprehensive list of activities and events will be distributed via the Royal Air Force website.

Armed Conflict

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent research his Department has undertaken on the predictability of the outbreak of future conflicts of *(a)* a state-against-state and *(b)* an insurgency nature; and if he will make a statement. [313106]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence undertakes a range of research on these topics and contributes to cross-Government work. The Defence Green Paper which I announced in July 2009 will cover findings from this work.

Armed Forces: Housing

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service accommodation properties in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland have an energy certificate rating of (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C, (iv) D, (v) E, (vi) F and (vii) G. [312114]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department does not issue energy performance certificates for service accommodation.

However, a small scale representative assessment, for proposed future investment purposes, of 58 SFA properties in Helensburgh resulted in 27 of these properties achieving a C rating, 25 a D rating and six an E rating.

Defence: Finance

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the recommendations of the 1998 Strategic Defence Review have since been fully funded. [313107]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 1998 SDR identified a range of priorities that have evolved over the intervening period to reflect the changing strategic setting and the experience of operations. Successive spending reviews have provided resources to fund these priorities.

Departmental Consultants

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on external consultancy during 2008-09. [312655]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A summary of the MOD's expenditure on external assistance in 2008-09, including the spend figures for Defence agencies and trading funds, was placed in the Library of the House in July 2009.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many iPods have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311907]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department has no central arrangements for purchasing iPods.

A comprehensive answer to this question could therefore be produced only by contacting all units and establishments to inquire whether any such items have been purchased under local arrangements. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what percentage of his Department's budget was spent on *(a)* pay, *(b)* pensions and *(c)* equipment in each year since 1997. [305749]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information available since 2003-04 is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*Pay (£ billion)*	*Percentage*	*Pensions (£ billion)*	*Percentage*	*Equipment (£ billion)*	*Percentage*
2003-04	8.9	23.4	2.6	6.7	10.9	28.5
2004-05	9.1	23.2	2.6	6.6	10.8	27.4
2005-06	9.2	22.8	2.8	6.9	11.0	27.0
2006-07	9.4	22.7	2.8	6.8	11.7	28.3
2007-08	9.5	21.6	2.8	6.4	12.4	28.0
2008-09	9.8	21.5	2.8	6.2	13.4	29.3

In addition, payments made under the separately funded Armed Forces Pensions Scheme have been as follows:

	£ billion
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	2.7
2005-06	2.8
2006-07	3.0
2007-08	3.2
2008-09	3.4

Notes:

1. The calculation of the percentage figures has been based on the sum of the outturn for (a) departmental expenditure limits, including non-cash costs (depreciation, impairments and cost of capital) and (b) war pensions and allowances (Request for Resources 3).
2. Expenditure on pay includes salaries and wages and social security costs.
3. Complete information is not held for before 2003-04.
4. The pension costs funded by the MOD are mainly those for armed forces personnel. The pension costs for civilian staff are covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme operated by the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312540]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In each of the last two years there has been no expenditure on new works of art by the MOD. It is not possible to separately identify the costs of new vehicles from the overall leasing costs of non-operational vehicles used by the Department. For new furnishings, the expenditure in each year is shown in the following table:

New furnishings

	Expenditure (£ million)
2007-08	18.7
2008-09	21.9

These costs represent only the cost of new furniture purchased including office furniture, furniture for messes and barracks, service families' accommodation, and ships; other furnishing costs are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for the UK to participate in permanent structured co-operation. [312654]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are currently engaging with other EU member states over the establishment of permanent structured co-operation, including discussion of what benefits it might bring for European capability and what criteria might be proposed. We will decide on UK participation once agreement has been reached.

European Fighter Aircraft: Falkland Islands

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defen[illegible]timate has been made of the cost of deploy[illegible]fighters to the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement. [312207]

Bill Rammell: The cost of deploying Typhoon aircraft to the Falkland Islands was £1.56 million.

A further £416,000 was allocated for one-off infrastructure costs at Mount Pleasant Permanent Joint Operating Base associated with the changeover from Tornado F3 to Typhoon. Additionally the cost of returning the Tornado F3 airframes to the UK was £800,000.

Typhoon took over responsibility for the Falkland Islands Quick Reaction Alert ole in September 2009.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft of each type there are in the RAF. [312651]

Bill Rammell: The numbers of aircraft in the Royal Air Force in-service fleet are provided in the following table. The figures show the service fleet position as of 31 December 2009. "In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

Aircraft type	*In service fleet*
BAe 146	2
BAe 125	6
C-17	6
Dominie	9
Harrier	74 i
Hawk T1	129
Hawk T2	17
Hercules C130K	14
Hercules C130J	24
Nimrod MR2	11
Nimrod R1	2
Sea King (SARF)	25
Sentinel	5
Sentry	5
Tornado F3	54
Tornado GR4	137
Tristar	9

Aircraft type	*In service fleet*
Tucano	93
Typhoon	62
VC10	15
Vigilant	65
Viking	82

Military Decorations

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider the merits of awarding a General Service Medal to British forces personnel who served in Oman prior to 1970. [312085]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since the end of World War II, the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals, known as the HD committee, has maintained a policy that it will not consider the belated institution of awards and medals for service given many years earlier. The Government consider it important to respect this policy, and therefore have no plans to consider the merits of instituting a General Service Medal for British forces personnel who served in Oman prior to 1970.

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the space-based infrared system at RAF Menwith Hill to be operational. [312742]

Bill Rammell: The space based infra-red system (SBIRS) facilities at RAF Menwith Hill are ready for operation. The operational date for SBIRS is a matter for the United States, but is unlikely to be until later this year.

RAF Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of external policing at *(a)* RAF Menwith Hill and *(b)* RAF Fylingdales in each year since 2001. [307295]

Bill Rammell: External policing at RAF Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales is primarily provided by the local constabulary, the North Yorkshire Police (NYP). At RAF Menwith Hill the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) conduct joint patrols with the NYP. The MDP costs are met from the defence budget. It is common practice that police forces do not release specific information relating to ongoing police operations, to prevent the potential for operational compromise.

Submarines: Females

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on women serving as crew members of Her Majesty's submarines. [313109]

Bill Rammell: Women are excluded from serving in Royal Navy submarines because of the potential risk to an unborn foetus from contaminants in the submarines' atmosphere. The Royal Navy, however, continues to examine this position and the Institute of Naval Medicine is currently conducting medical research to determine the levels of risk in more detail. The results of this research will inform the next review of women serving in submarines, which will take place later this year.

Trident

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 502W, on Trident, whether the Defence Board has concluded its assessment of the work required during the concept phase of replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. [310144]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Progress on the concept phase for the future deterrent has been considered by the Defence Board. More time is required to ensure that we take decisions based on the most robust information. We are aiming to be in a position to make a statement on progress soon.

Trident Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the maintenance cost of the Vanguard class submarines in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [311156]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The estimated maintenance costs of Vanguard class submarines in 2009-10 and for each of the next five years, which cover fleet maintenance and capital spend incurred as part of the Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) maintenance programme, are provided in the following table:

	£ million
2009-10	118
2010-11	139
2011-12	131
2012-13	128
2013-14	165
2014-15	136

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance cost for the Vanguard class submarine was in 2008-09. [311157]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The maintenance cost for the Vanguard class submarine in 2008-09 was £90 million. This figure includes fleet maintenance and capital spend incurred as part of the Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) maintenance programme.

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts have been signed in respect of the construction of new *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels since May 1997. [313108]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Construction contracts for 15 surface ships and submarines have been signed since May 1997. Details are provided in the following table:

	Type of vessel	*Name of vessel*
2000	Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary)	Largs Bay
		Lyme Bay

	Type of vessel	Name of vessel
2000	Echo Class Survey Vessels	Echo Enterprise
2000[1]	Type 45 Destroyer	Daring Dauntless Diamond Dragon Defender Duncan
2001	Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary)	Mounts Bay Cardigan Bay
2007	Astute Class Submarine	Audacious
2008	Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers	Queen Elizabeth Prince Of Wales

[1] The Type 45 contract was re-negotiated in 2007.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many domestic flights in the UK travelled *(a)* 300 and *(b)* 360 miles or less in each of the last three years; and how many such flights were lifeline flights. [312501]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The information requested is as follows.

(a) Table 1 shows the number of domestic flights that departed from a UK reporting airport and travelled 300 miles or less in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 1

	Number of flight departures
2006	291,965
2007	287,939
2008	275,926

(b) Table 2 below shows the number of domestic flights that departed from a UK reporting airport and travelled 360 miles or less in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 2

	Number of flight departures
2006	400,758
2007	394,971
2008	381,772

Table 3 shows the number of lifeline flights that departed from a UK reporting airport (Glasgow, Barra, Campletown, Tiree, Stornoway, Benbecula, Kirkwall, Sumburgh, Tingwall and Cardiff) in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 3

	Number of lifeline flight departures
2006	6,352
2007	6,961
2008	7,138

Notes:
1. Flights by passenger aircraft only.
2. Based on data from 58 reporting airports, including flights from the Isle of Man and Channel Island airports.
3. Lifeline flights are those routes with Public Service Obligations (PSOs) imposed by the UK published by the Civil Aviation Authority in "CAP 775: Air Services at UK Regional Airports—An Update on Developments".

Source:
Based on data supplied to DfT by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many flights to *(a)* domestic destinations, *(b)* destinations in near Europe and *(c)* other international destinations departed from UK airports in each of the last three years; and how many of these were domestic lifeline flights. [312994]

Paul Clark: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Table 1 shows the number of flights to domestic destinations that departed from a UK reporting airport in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 1

	Number of domestic flight departures
2006	434,454
2007	428,643
2008	415,190

(b) Table 2 shows the number of flights to destinations in the European Union that departed from a UK reporting airport in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 2

	Number of flight departures to EU destinations
2006	529,067
2007	546,617
2008	534,359

(c) Table 3 shows the number of flights to other international destinations (outside of the EU) that departed from a UK reporting airport in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 3

	Number of flight departures to other international destinations
2006	198,306
2007	205,271
2008	206,502

Table 4 shows the number of domestic lifeline flights that departed from a UK reporting airport (Glasgow, Barra, Campletown, Tiree, Stornoway, Benbecula, Kirkwall, Sumburgh, Tingwall and Cardiff) in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 4

	Number of lifeline flight departures
2006	6,352
2007	6,961

Table 4

	Number of lifeline flight departures
2008	7,138

Notes:
1. Flights by passenger aircraft only.
2. Based on data from 58 reporting airports, including flights from the Isle of Man and Channel Island airports.
3. Flights to oil rigs are included in other international destinations.
4. Lifeline flights are those routes with public service obligations (PSOs) imposed by the UK published by the Civil Aviation Authority in 'CAP 775: Air Services at UK Regional Airports—An Update on Developments'.

Source:
Based on data supplied to DFT by the Civil Aviation Authority

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average distance travelled by *(a)* domestic excluding lifeline, *(b)* near Europe and *(c)* other international flights departing from UK airports was in each of the last three years. [312997]

Paul Clark: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Table 1 shows the average distance travelled by domestic excluding lifeline flights that departed from a UK reporting airport in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 1

	Average distance (km)
2006	372
2007	371
2008	371

(b) Table 2 shows the average distance travelled by European Union flights that departed from a UK reporting airport in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 2

	Average distance (km)
2006	1,134
2007	1,140
2008	1,149

(c) Table 3 shows the average distance travelled by other international flights (outside of the EU) that departed from a UK reporting airport in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 3

	Average distance (km)
2006	4,319
2007	4,324
2008	4,285

Notes:
1. Flights by passenger aircraft only.
2. Based on data from 58 reporting airports, including flights from the Isle of Man and Channel Island airports.
3. Flights to oil rigs are included in other international destinations.

Source:
Based on data supplied to DFT by the Civil Aviation Authority

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the maximum permitted take-off weight for planes departing from UK airports is, broken down by type of plane. [312998]

Paul Clark: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Bus Services: Bankruptcy

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many bus companies have *(a)* become bankrupt, *(b)* gone into liquidation, *(c)* ceased trading for other reasons and *(d)* started up in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which data are available. [312714]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Bus Services: Working Hours

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will extend the relaxation of enforcement of EU rules on drivers' hours in the Scottish Highlands and Islands to the week beginning 25 January 2010; and when he plans to make an announcement on future relaxations. [312894]

Paul Clark: The only relaxation to the enforcement of the EU drivers' hours rules that remains in place is for the transportation of heating oil, gas oil, and liquid petroleum gas (LPG). This was extended until 23:59 hours on 25 January to cover the cold/extreme weather and enable a backlog in deliveries to be reduced.

Following requests from industry, the decision was made on 25 January to extend the relaxation of the EU drivers' hours rules for the transportation of LPG only for a further week, until 23.59 on 1 February 2010. There are no relaxations for drivers' hours in other sectors. The Department for Transport is keeping the temporary arrangements under review, in consultation with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Scottish Executive.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many iPods have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311913]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its agencies have bought 23 iPods since 2005, all of them in 2009. Of these, 21 were bought at a cost of £1,650 by DFT (central), for use as prizes in an anti-drink drive radio campaign. They were provided to 21 radio stations across the country who agreed to run quizzes on the theme of the consequences of drink driving as part of a Think! road safety campaign. The other two, at a cost of £75, were bought by the Highways Agency as prizes for staff campaigns committed to environmental sustainability.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what volume of waste his Department generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of his Department's waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311372]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport, including its agencies, has reported the following waste figures for the last three years as part of its Sustainability on the Government Estate (SOGE) return.

	Total waste (Tonnes)	*Paper (Percentage of total waste)*	*Plastics (Percentage of total)*	*Glass (Percentage of total waste)*	*Metal (Percentage of total waste)*	*Electrical (Percentage of total waste)*	*Food (Percentage of total waste)*
2006-07	3,878	32.03	0.34	0.13	0.41	0.10	n/k
2007-08	3,711	33.63	0.51	0.57	0.49	0.24	n/k
2008-09	4,756	23.04	0.65	1.01	0.06	0.38	n/k

		Percentage of total waste		
	Total waste (Tonnes)	*Secure disposal*	*Landfill*	*Recycled*
2006-07	3,878	6.28	38.62	57.09
2007-08	3,711	3.00	37.31	56.28
2008-09	4,756	2.91	49.45	45.89

It should be noted that the secure disposal percentage figure is repeated within the recycled percentage.

Highways Agency: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps the Highways Agency is taking to ensure that contractors have direct incentives to minimise whole life costs. [311180]

Chris Mole: In the procurement of road construction and maintenance, the Highways Agency awards the contract to the tender that represents best value for money in terms of quality and cost. Highways Agency contractors are also required to develop proposals for renewal maintenance schemes using the agency's continuous value management process, which incorporates whole life cost tools. Whole life cost optimisation tools also support the setting of the national maintenance budgets.

Lorries

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of heavy goods vehicles weighing over 3.5 tonnes registered in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* abroad which use (i) motorways and (ii) dual carriageways. [312995]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold data on the percentage of heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes that use motorways or dual carriageways.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles of each type there are registered in the UK. [312422]

Paul Clark: The following table gives the total number of vehicles by body type licensed in the UK at 31 December 2008.

	Number (Thousand)
Cars	29,235.5
Motor cycles	1,322.1
Light goods	3,329.5
Heavy goods	543.8
Buses and coaches	186.0
Other vehicles	613.9
Total	35,230.8

More recent data on vehicles licensed in Great Britain are published each quarter at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/

Data on vehicles licensed in Northern Ireland are published annually at:

www.drdni.gov.uk/index/statistics/stats-catagories/ni_transport_statistics.htm

Parking Offences: Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which local authorities use CCTV cameras for parking enforcement. [311787]

Mr. Khan: To date, the following authorities have had CCTV systems certified for civil parking enforcement use.

Applicant	*Certification granted*
Medway Council	4 June 2008
Nottingham City Council	12 June 2008
London Borough of Hounslow	13 August 2008
London Borough of Redbridge	4 September 2008
London Borough of Ealing	11 September 2008
London Borough of Lambeth	21 January 2009
London Borough of Islington	21 January 2009
London Borough of Lewisham	20 February 2009
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	23 February 2009
London Borough of Havering	26 February 2009
London Borough of Harrow	16 March 2009
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	20 March 2009
London Borough of Hillingdon	20 March 2009
London Borough of Croydon	20 March 2009
London Borough of Haringey	27 March 2009
London Borough of Newham	30 March 2009
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	30 March 2009
London Borough of Hackney	30 March 2009
Transport for London	30 March 2009
London Borough of Camden	30 March 2009
London Borough of Bromley	30 March 2009
London Borough of Bexley	30 March 2009
City of London	30 March 2009
London Borough of Southwark	31 March 2009

Applicant	*Certification granted*
London Borough of Waltham Forest	31 March 2009
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	3 April 2009
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	6 April 2009
London Borough of Enfield	6 April 2009
London Borough of Wandsworth	14 April 2009
South Tyneside Council	18 May 2009
Bournemouth Borough Council	9 June 2009
Basildon District Council	7 July 2009
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	21 September 2009
Bristol City Council	20 November 2009
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	14 January 2010
London Borough of Sutton	15 January 2010

Parliamentary Questions: Administrative Delays

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to answer question 300566, on departmental pay, tabled on 18 November 2009. [313139]

Chris Mole: A reply was given to the hon. Member on 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 418W.

Railways: Bankruptcy

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many train companies have *(a)* become bankrupt, *(b)* gone into liquidation, *(c)* ceased trading for other reasons and *(d)* started up in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the lowest geographical area for which data are available. [312715]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not keep a record of how many train companies have *(a)* become bankrupt, *(b)* gone into liquidation, or *(c)* ceased trading. This information may be sourced through Companies House. The decision to cease trading is a commercial decision made by train companies.

With regard to the number of train companies which have started up in each of the last 10 years, this is a matter for the independent Office of Rail Regulation who can be contacted at:

Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

The Office of Rail Regulation provides all train operators on the United Kingdom rail network with operating licences.

Railways: Finance

Mike Wood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the review of value for money for the railways announced in the pre-Budget report will be used to assist in deciding overall funding for the railways for the control period 2014-19. [312708]

Chris Mole: The value for money review will constitute one of the pieces of evidence that will be used in deciding funding for the railways for control period 5 (2014-19).

Railways: Snow and Ice

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will direct train operating companies to offer discounts on season tickets for commuters affected by reduced services in severe weather conditions. [312666]

Chris Mole: Passengers' entitlement to compensation is set out in Passenger's Charters, which we require each Train Operating Company (TOC) to have as part of its franchise. Where TOCs have introduced emergency timetables, including service reductions, as has been the case with many TOCs during the recent severe weather, compensation entitlements are based on the emergency timetable. TOCs may choose to go beyond these entitlements at their discretion.

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of road congestion in the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 25 and *(d)* 50 years. [312712]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport generally estimates changes in congestion between future scenarios to calculate the benefits of potential transport interventions. However, it has also used analysis from the National Transport Model to estimate what the change in the cost of congestion is likely to be between a base year and a future year.

The 2006 Eddington study estimated that the increase in time lost in England due to road congestion between 2003 and 2025 for all travellers including business and freight would be worth £23 to £24 billion in 2025 (2002 prices). The Eddington study is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/

No such assessment for 2015, 2020, 2035, or 2060 is available.

The latest forecasts of congestion are available in "Road Traffic Forecasts 2008: Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model", which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/roadtransportforcasts08/rtf08.pdf

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which 50 stretches of road have the highest rates of *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatal accidents; and how many (a) accidents and (b) fatal accidents have taken place on each of these stretches in each of the last 10 years. [312711]

Paul Clark: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Eurorap have carried out some work in this area where the most dangerous motorways and A roads in GB are identified. The report can be downloaded at:

http://www.eurorap.org/lib_search?search=Y&Type=nat

Roads: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the percentage year-on-year change in the number of *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injury as a result of road accidents has been in Birmingham in each of the last three years. [312773]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given in the following table:

Reported killed and seriously injured casualties in road accidents in Birmingham, and percentage change from previous year: 2006-08

	Number		Percentage change	
	Killed	*Severely injured*	*Killed*	*Severely injured*
2006	49	441	44	-9
2007	24	490	-51	11
2008	29	401	21	-18

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance has been issued to local authorities on the technical aspects of repairing potholes in roads. [311790]

Mr. Khan: It is for each local highway authority to determine how to discharge its duty to maintain the highways in its charge. The Department for Transport does not issue technical engineering guidance to local authorities on highways maintenance matters.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what local transport notes have been provided to local highways authorities on the use of guard railing in residential streets. [311792]

Mr. Khan: Local Transport Note 2/09 "Pedestrian Guardrailing" was issued by the Department for Transport in April 2009. It can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes/ltn209pedestrian.pdf

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there are mechanisms in place to compensate local authorities in circumstances in which companies contracted by them to provide salt have not fulfilled their contractual obligations as a result of the intervention of the Salt Cell. [310939]

Mr. Khan: This is a matter for salt suppliers and their customers. The Salt Cell has been established only to advise salt suppliers which areas of the nation's road network have the greatest need for salt.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether he has received recent representations on *(a)* damage to roads in Wirral caused by ice and *(b)* (i) main roads and (ii) side roads in Wirral which have not yet been cleared of snow; [311351]

(2) whether he has received recent representations on the damage caused to pavements on *(a)* main and *(b)* side roads in Wirral caused by ice and snow. [311390]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has not received any representations relating to local roads or pavements in Wirral, since the start of 2010, on *(a)* damage caused by ice and *(b)* main and side roads which have not yet been cleared of snow.

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how frequently the Government's Salt Cell meets during periods of extreme weather; how many times it has met since 19 December; and how frequently it plans to meet in 2011. [311461]

Mr. Khan: The Salt Cell usually meets twice a week, although it will meet more or less frequently as the situation demands. In response to the current severe weather, the Salt Cell was convened on 6 January and has since met four times. The frequency of Salt Cell meetings in 2011 will be determined by the need for meetings, which will in turn be determined by the circumstances.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what changes have been made to the requirements on local highways authorities to clear *(a)* roads and *(b)* pavements of snow and ice since 1997. [311789]

Mr. Khan: Local highways authorities have a duty, under s41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highways in their charge, including footways. This duty had long been held to include keeping the highway serviceable in winter. However, in 2000 the House of Lords, in Goodes *v.* East Sussex CC ruled that the duty did not include an absolute requirement to clear snow and ice. The insertion in the 1980 Act, in 2003, of s41(1A) to specify that

> "a highway authority are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice"

established the present position.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the contribution of Lord Davies of Oldham of 2 February 2004, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 444, on footpaths and roads: de-icing, what guidance his Department has given to local authorities on *(a)* the personal liability of householders who seek to clear the pavement or highway of ice or snow and *(b)* whether local authorities should seek to discourage householders from clearing highways. [311830]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has given no guidance to local authorities on either matter.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many requests the Highways Agency has received from Royal Mail to clear the roads *(a)* in Wirral, South constituency and *(b)* elsewhere in the last two months. [312074]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency is responsible only for the strategic road network (i.e. motorways and trunk roads) and has not received any requests from Royal Mail to clear the roads in either Wirral, South constituency or elsewhere on its network in the last two months.

SS Richard Montgomery

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent reports he has received of fires appearing above the SS Richard Montgomery in the Thames Estuary; and if he will make a statement. [312645]

Paul Clark: The wreck of the SS Richard Montgomery is kept under 24-hour surveillance by Medway Ports, under contract to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. No such fires have been observed or reported.

Transport: Infrastructure

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what scenarios have been run under the National Transport Model in the last five years. [312713]

Mr. Khan: The National Transport Model (NTM) has been used to analyse scenarios with varying assumptions about: GDP growth, oil prices, fuel prices, population, vehicle fuel efficiency and several forms of transport policies and investment.

The latest forecasts from the NTM under several scenarios are available in "Road Traffic Forecasts 2008: Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model", which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/road
transportforcasts08/rtf08.pdf

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

14 Tothill Street

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1065W, on 14 Tothill Street, what consideration the House of Commons Commission gave to siting the proposed nursery in the premises leased by the House of Commons at vacant space available at *(a)* 14 Tothill Street and *(b)* Number 4 Millbank leased by the House of Commons. [312371]

Nick Harvey: 14 Tothill street and 4 Millbank, both of which are to be used as accommodation for House staff, were considered to be too far from the Palace to be sufficiently practical as the site of the nursery. In addition neither building allows a safe drop-off area which would lead to the children being exposed to higher risk from traffic incidents.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Internet: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for the Leader of the House's website in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for each such category of expenditure in 2009-10. [311812]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. Information prior to 2007 and for the full 2007-08 financial year can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

During the 2008-09 financial year, £24,155.39 was spent on the design and build of the Leader of the House of Commons website. £18,625 was spent on hosting and infrastructure. £1,170.79 was spent on content provision. No costs were incurred for the testing and evaluation and strategy and planning of the website.

The amounts include total external costs and do not include internal staff costs. Figures for the 2009-10 financial year will be available only when the Department's resource accounts have been fully audited and laid before Parliament. The position of the office website continues to be reviewed.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising Standards Authority

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects Ofcom to designate the Advertising Standards Authority as the regulator for video on demand advertising under the Audiovisual Media Services Regulations 2009. [312992]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of Ofcom.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write direct to the hon. Member for South West Surrey.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Archaeological Sites

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many sites and monuments are in the guardianship of local authorities under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; [311613]

(2) which sites and monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State are covered by local management agreements with local authorities. [311614]

Margaret Hodge: There are 32 sites and monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State that are covered by local management agreements with local authorities. Details of these sites by region have been supplied by English Heritage and are provided in the table:

Site	*Partner*
North West Region	
Chester Amphitheatre	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Chester Castle	Cheshire West and Chester Council
North East Region	
Gisborough Priory	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
South West Region	
Belas Knap Long Barrow	Gloucestershire County Council
Notgrove Long Barrow	Gloucestershire County Council
Nympsfield Long Barrow	Gloucestershire County Council
Rodmarton Long Barrow	Gloucestershire County Council
Uley Long Barrow	Gloucestershire County Council
South East	
Calshot Castle	Hampshire County Council
Rochester Castle	Medway Council
Upnor Castle	Medway Council
Temple Manor	Medway Council
Milton Chantry	Gravesham Borough Council
Camber Castle	East Sussex County Council together with Rye Harbour Nature Board
Reculver Roman Fort and Towers	Canterbury City Council
East of England	
Blue Bottle Grove	Colchester Borough Council
St. Botolph's Priory	Colchester Borough Council
St. John's Abbey gate	Colchester Borough Council
Lexden Straight Rd	Colchester Borough Council
Bury St Edmunds Abbey	St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
Caister	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Duxford	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Norwich Cow Tower	Norwich City Council
Thetford Priory	Thetford Town Council
Waltham Abbey	Lee Valley Regional Park
East Midlands	
Arbor Low	Peak Park Authority
Nine Ladies	Peak Park Authority
Hob Hurst's House	Peak Park Authority
Eyam Moor	Peak Park Authority
Chichele College	East Northants District Council
Gainsborough Old Hall	Lincolnshire County Council
Rufford Abbey	Nottinghamshire County Council

The information requested on sites and monuments in the guardianship of local authorities under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 is not held centrally but held at local level by individual local authorities.

Compulsory Purchase: Archaeological Sites

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times compulsory purchase powers under *(a)* the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and *(b)* other legislation to protect sites and monuments of national importance have been used by local authorities in the last 10 years; what sites have been so purchased; and on what dates. [311612]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 does not give local planning authorities compulsory purchase powers.

(b) Under the 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, if it appears to the Secretary of State that reasonable steps are not being taken to properly preserve a listed building, he may authorise the appropriate authority to acquire compulsorily the building and any relevant land, or may himself compulsorily acquire them, although this is a reserve power used only in the case of nationally significant buildings.

There are a number of routes by which local authorities may acquire heritage buildings through compulsory purchase Order, the 1990 Act being only one. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold comprehensive information on all compulsory purchase powers enjoyed by local authorities for the purpose of protecting sites and monuments of national importance.

Culture: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding he plans to allocate to the *(a)* British Film Institute National Film Centre, *(b)* British Museum World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre, *(c)* British Library newspaper archive and *(d)* new Stonehenge Visitors' Centre in each of the next five years. [312990]

Mr. Simon: The Department has allocated £45 million to the British Film Institute National Film Centre, £22.5 million to the British Museum World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre, £33 million to the British Library newspaper archive and £10 million for the new Stonehenge Visitors' Centre. The Department is discussing the funding profile for these projects with the bodies concerned.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies plans to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 per cent. in 2010. [311433]

Mr. Simon: The Department and its agency The Royal Parks have not committed to make this reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. They are already exceeding the Government targets to reduce carbon emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and to reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations by 15 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 2005-06 levels.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2003. [306457]

Mr. Simon: An element of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The Department makes non-consolidated performance payments to its employees for two purposes: (a) in-year non-consolidated performance payments to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and (b) year-end non-consolidated performance payments to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. In both cases they support and help drive high performance.

These figures are exclusive of two key senior staff in the Government Olympic Executive, who were appointed on fixed-term contracts ending in 2012 and whose remuneration reflects extensive relevant experience and the unique challenge of delivering the Olympics to a fixed deadline. Details of the remuneration of two key senior staff were published in the departmental Annual Reports and Accounts 2009.

Details of the non-consolidated performance payments paid to departmental employees are set out in the table.

Performance year	*Total number of awards*	*Value of non-consolidated performance payments (£)*	*Wages and salaries (£)*	*Non-consolidated performance payments as percentage of wages and salaries (percentage)*
2003-04	215	206,403	18,681,000	1.10
2004-05	172	215,285	19,487,000	1.10
2005-06	240	293,241	22,191,000	1.32
2006-07	245	392,114	25,243,000	1.55
2007-08	379	520,713	26,047,000	2.00
2008-09	397	517,167	25,327,000	2.04

Note:
The "wages and salaries" for each financial year is taken from Department's annual resource accounts

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312545]

Mr. Simon: In 2007-08 the Department spent £83,705 on new furnishings and £0 on new vehicles.

In 2008-09 the Department spent £70,273 on new furnishings and £0 on new vehicles.

The Government Art Collection (GAC), which is managed by the DCMS, spent £414,542 in 2007-08 and £564,256 in 2008-09 on acquiring works of art for display in UK Government offices and our embassies and Government properties overseas, using funds directly from GAC and other sources of funding.

Digital Broadcasting: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of local commercial radio stations in Scotland without a digital migration pathway. [312103]

Mr. Simon: No specific estimate has been made of the number of local stations which may remain on FM after the digital radio switchover.

Gambling: Internet

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to regulate the use of credit card payments to make bets through gambling websites. [312921]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Online gambling operators licensed in Great Britain are required to verify age, allow individuals to set financial limits or self-exclude, and intervene where there are signs of problem gambling regardless of the payment method used.

Licensed Premises: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed premises there were per 1,000 of population in Birmingham in each of the last three years. [312782]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, collects the number of premises licences and club premises certificates.

The following table shows the number of licensed premises per 1,000 of the population of Birmingham as at 31 March 2007, 2008 and 2009.

	Premises licences and club premises certificates per 1,000 population
2007	2.9
2008	2.8
2009	2.8

The number of licences in 2007 has been adjusted by mid-2007 population estimates (produced by the Office for National Statistics), the number of licences in 2008 and 2009 have both been adjusted by mid-2008 population estimates (latest available estimates).

Listed Buildings: Conservation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the English Heritage at Risk register will next be updated. [312647]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage advise that their 2010 Heritage at Risk register will be published on 1 July 2010.

Museums and Galleries: Educational Visits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what free educational schemes his Department operates in national museums and galleries. [312412]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Children, Schools and Families jointly fund the 'Strategic Commissioning' programme. This programme provides funding for national museums to develop free educational and community programmes.

The programme was established in 2003 and exists to support the formal and informal learning of children, young people and adults through the more effective use of museums and galleries. By 2011, this programme will have seen £32 million of investment.

By 2011, £15.3 million of this investment will have gone towards enabling 11 national museums and their regional partners, plus the British Library, to develop free museum-based educational programmes for school-age children and local communities. Over 300,000 school children have benefited from this programme to date.

Royal Parks Agency: Taxation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much accrued to the Royal Parks Agency from the encroachment rate payable in Bushy Park in each of the last 10 years; when the rate was first levied; what rate was charged in each of the last 10 years; how many dwellings and hereditaments are liable for the rate; and whether the rate is classified as a tax by the Office for National Statistics. [311475]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks (TRP) advise that there are currently 45 commercial, 84 residential, and 17 utility encroachment licenses recorded for Bushy Park. TRP advise that they have accrued the following encroachment income over the past 10 years:

Financial year	*Income*[1] *(£)*
1999-2000	34,916
2000-01	104,282
2001-02	49,748
2002-03	117,672
2003-04	73,116
2004-05	67,003
2005-06	75,923
2006-07	64,765
2007-08	90,937
2008-09	64,583

[1] These figures exclude British Telecom encroachments which are licensed under a Master Agreement covering all parks.

The procedure for licensing encroachments has been in operation since prior to the turn of the previous century, and the licence fee is for the use and occupation of Bushy Park land. The level of fee is assessed individually to reflect the extent of the encroachment on park land.

The licence fee is not classified as a tax by the Office for National Statistics.

Royal Parks: Parking

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the research project by Peter Brett Associates on the effects of car parking charges in Richmond and Bushy Parks. [312991]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks advise that the report, by traffic consultants Peter Brett Associates, cost £7090.60.

Sports: National Lottery

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Big Lottery Fund has given to sport-related activities in 2008-09. [312803]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of the Big Lottery Fund.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund to write direct to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid-Kent.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Swimming: Lincolnshire

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided to local authorities in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire to meet the costs of free swimming lessons for (i) pensioners and (ii) young people since April 2009. [312083]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Free Swimming Programme is funded to provide 100,000 free swimming lessons. Local authorities are required to apply to the Amateur Swimming Association for funding for the delivery of free swimming lessons in their areas.

North East Lincolnshire Unitary Authority applied for funding for free swimming lessons for the elderly and young people and received a total of £2,300.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many convictions there have been of residents of Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency for non-payment of a television licence in the last three years. [312206]

Mr. Simon: The number of defendants found guilty of television licence evasion across the West Midlands police force area from 2005 to 2007 has been provided by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and is given in the table:

	2005[1]	2006[1]	2007[2]
West Midlands	10,513	10,024	10,950

[1] As well as television licence evasion, these data include proceedings for summary offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to 1967.

[2] These figures relate to the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003.

Note:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Ministry of Justice.

Data regarding court proceedings are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Therefore data have been given in the table for the West Midlands police force area.

The MoJ advise that data regarding court proceedings for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley have been prosecuted for not having a television licence in the last three years for which figures are available. [312852]

Mr. Simon: The number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for television licence evasion in the Metropolitan police force area from 2005 to 2007 has been provided by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and is given in the table[1, 2].

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Metropolitan police force area

	Number of people proceeded against
2005[1]	23,508
2006[1]	19,217
2007[2]	22,766

[1] As well as television licence evasion, these data include proceedings for summary offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to 1967.

[2] These figures relate to the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003.

Source:

Justice Analytical Services—MoJ Ref: IOS030-10)

Data regarding court proceedings are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Therefore data have been given in the table for the Metropolitan police force area.

The MoJ advise that data regarding court proceedings for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Tourism: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been made available for tourism regeneration projects in Torbay constituency in the last five years. [312861]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not held by my Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of the South West Regional Development Agency (RDA), which leads on regional regeneration and development work.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the South West RDA to write directly to the hon. Member for Torbay.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Visits Abroad: Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff from each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver; and at what cost for each such body. [310491]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To provide the information requested from all of our non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) would incur disproportionate cost. We have, however, been advised by the following NDPBs that they are planning to send staff to the Winter Olympics in Vancouver at the following costs:

Public body	Number of staff members	Cost for each body (£)
UK Sport	3	21,824.84
UK Anti Doping in Sport	2	[1]—
VisitBritain	3	[2]7,500.00
Olympic Delivery Authority	2	7,726.90
Arts Council England	1	735.00

[1] All costs covered by the World Anti Doping Agency.

[2] Estimated.

UK Sport has advised that three members of its organisation will be attending the Winter Olympics in Vancouver at a cost of £21,824.84.

UK Anti Doping (UKAD) has advised that it will be sending two representatives; one as part of the World Anti Doping Agency's (WADA) Independent Observer programme, and one as part of WADA's Athlete Outreach programme. All costs for UKAD will be covered by WADA.

The Olympic Delivery Authority has advised that two members of staff are on the observer programme for the Games in Vancouver. The cost for accommodation and travel comes to £7,726.90.

VisitBritain advises that three members of staff will be attending Vancouver as part of observer programme at an estimated cost of £2,500 per person.

Arts Council England (ACE) has advised that it is sending one member of staff to Vancouver at a cost of £735.00 for the flight. The staff member will also be representing other bodies at the Games. These bodies will cover the remaining costs of the trip.

HEALTH

Accidents: Snow and Ice

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people injured in accidents attributable to adverse weather conditions in January 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the national health service of treating such people in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the East Midlands. [312219]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service. The NHS, as part of its planning process, ensures operational challenges such as adverse weather are factored into local contingency plans, including the cost of treating patients.

Ambulance Services: Snow and Ice

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people transported to hospital by helicopter in preference to transport by ambulance in December 2009 and January 2010 in circumstances attributable to severe weather conditions. [313158]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. The information requested is not collected centrally.

Carers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the level of support it provides to carers. [312733]

Phil Hope: In 2007, the Standing Commission on Carers (SCOC) was established as an independent body to provide expert advice to Ministers and the Carers Strategy Cross-Government Programme Board on the progress in delivering the Carers Strategy.

SCOC published its first annual report, 'Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities—work in progress', on 23 October 2009. The report highlights progress made against the main themes of the Carers Strategy. It contains a number of recommendations for the Government and local delivery partners.

Direct support that the Department provides to carers includes funding the Carers Direct helpline and website and the Caring with Confidence training programme for carers.

Carers: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Chesterfield constituency *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* over 60 years old were registered as carers in each of the last five years. [312807]

Phil Hope: Carers may register with a range of organisations for different purposes—there is no single register as such.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care does not collect the number of registered carers; nor are local or national data on the number of children under the age of 18 years with caring responsibilities collected centrally.

Dementia: Health Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support for dementia *(a)* patients and *(b)* their carers is being provided from the additional funding awarded to NHS Cumbria through the National Dementia Strategy. [312723]

Phil Hope: The Department has allocated funding to NHS Cumbria through the National Dementia Strategy. This money is not ring-fenced and spending is not monitored centrally. It is for NHS Cumbria to determine how to use the money allocated to them according to local needs and priorities.

The Department is currently commissioning a national baseline audit of service and financial provision (a commitment given in the National Dementia Strategy) to benchmark the current position and enable us monitor and measure progress on implementation of the strategy.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300302]

Phil Hope: Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral part of the Department's reward strategy for all its staff. They have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future paybill costs. These payments are used to reward outstanding performance and behaviours in delivering the Department's agenda. These payments have increased over the five-year period as a result of the increasing emphasis on these payments through the Department's reward strategy.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls and have to be re-earned each year. They do not add to future pay bill costs. In the case of the senior civil service (SCS), the percentage of pay bill set aside for performance-related awards is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. For staff at Administrative Officer to Grade 6, the percentage of pay bill set aside was determined by a three-year pay settlement introduced in 2008-09.

The following table shows, for the Department, how many people were eligible for (estimated at year end) and received a non-consolidated variable pay award and the total and maximum payments for the awards, by civil service band, awarded under the Department's standard pay and performance management processes for the last five years of published accounts. The tables include in-year and end-year performance payments but not non-consolidated payments made as part of a pay award to those at or near the maxima of their pay scales.

The information requested is presented in the table.

	2008-09[1]		*2007-08*[1]		*2006-07*[1]		*2005-06*[1]		*2004-05*[1]	
Grade sector	*SCS*	*Non-SCS*	*SCS*	*Non-SCS*	*SCS*	*Non-SCS*	*SCS*	*Non-SCS*	*SCS*	*Non-SCS*
Total number of staff receiving non-consolidated performance pay	214	924	176	433	175	241	181	388	143	528
Headcount[2]	260	1,985	247	1,987	261	2,069	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Percentage of staff receiving non-consolidated performance pay (%)	82	47	71	22	67	12	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Total spend on non-consolidated performance pay (£)	1,780,785	773,134	1,556,945	383,775	1,161,823	238,226	961,843	275,429	734,599	328,647
Percentage of base pay set aside for end year non-consolidated performance pay (%)	8.6	0.15	7.6	[4]n/a	6.5	[4]n/a	5.0	[4]n/a	4.0	[4]n/a
Largest single payment (£)	[5]26,775	12,000	[5]22,750	9,000	30,699	9,000	30,000	6,000	22,500	5,000
Average (median) payment (£)	5,662	700	8,927	661	7,927	500	4,055	450	3,586	500

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[1] The table includes both in-year and end-year non-consolidated performance payments. End-year payments are in respect of performance in the previous year, i.e. end-year payments made in 2008-09 relate to performance year 2007-08 etc.

[2] The number of eligible staff will be slightly underestimated as there are a number of staff with "unknown" grades on the Department's Human Resources Information System. The headcount figures are all taken at the end of the financial year. The percentages given are calculated on these headcount figures.

[3] Figures are not available for headcount broken down by SCS/non-SCS except at disproportionate cost.

[4] n/a: Category not applicable because non-consolidated performance related pay was not introduced for these grades until 2008-09.

[5] In addition, an individual employed on a SCS non-standard form of contract, which links a higher than normal percentage of their pay to performance, received total non-consolidated payments of £27,500 in 2007-08 and £49,004 in 2008-09.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department earn a salary over £100,000 per annum. [311992]

Phil Hope: There were 71 senior civil servants in the Department who earned a salary of over £100,000 at 1 April 2008. Salary includes base pay and all pay-related allowances. Further details are available in the departmental report 2009, which was published on 11 June 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 48 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, if he will provide details of the *(a)* central strategic health authority allocation, *(b)* centrally managed funds, *(c)* research and development, *(d)* Department for Health administration, *(e)* technical, *(f)* other central and *(g)* contingency dispositions; and how much has not yet been allocated in each case. [311976]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The requested further detailed information is supplied as follows. It should be noted that due to the timing of publication of the departmental report 2009, the chart on page 48 of the departmental report was constructed based on information from plans at January 2009. By the start of 2009-10 financial year all funding had been allocated.

Central strategic health authority allocations

Expenditure type	*Total (£000)*
Allocations to Specific Programmes	830,452
Allocations to Services	125,602
Allocations to Hosted Programmes	344,409
Total	1,300,460

The make-up of the £9.7 billion of centrally managed funds is shown in the chart on page 48 of the departmental report (in the linked boxes).

Planned research and development expenditure was set at £900 million.

Department of Health administration are fully set out in figure B.3 of page 233 of the departmental report 2009.

Technical

Budget name	*Total (£ million)*
Trust Debt Remuneration	-1,185
Trust Cost of Capital	1,266
DEL Impairments	50
Total	131

Other central

Budget name	*Total (£ million)*
Directorate-General Managed Budgets	1,686
End-Year Flexibility Funding and Transfers	38
Non-Cash Central Programmes	24
Total	1,748

All contingency funds were allocated by the start of 2009-10.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to answer Questions tabled by hon. Members on the operation of *(a)* NHS foundation trusts and *(b)* Monitor; and if he will make a statement. [312337]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers are not in a position to respond to questions or comment about issues relating to operational management within NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs).

However, as with tabled parliamentary questions, Ministers will continue to provide information to hon. Members or peers on behalf of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) on issues specifically relating to the regulation of NHSFTs. The same would apply to issues relating to the management of Monitor.

We cannot anticipate every likely avenue of approach that hon. Members might take in raising matters about NHSFTs. In general Ministers will continue to refer hon. Members to the chair of a local NHSFT to respond to questions tabled about its day to day management. We will also continue to direct written parliamentary questions on such matters to the chair of the organisation for answer.

Matters of national policy for the NHS, including its resources, standards and targets, will continue to be the responsibility of Ministers. Ministers will therefore continue to be responsible for responding to written and other tabled questions about the provision of NHS services, including provision through NHSFTs where the information is collected centrally.

Eating Disorders: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10, (iii) 11, (iv) 12, (v) 13, (vi) 14, (vii) 15, (viii) 16, (ix) 17 and (x) 18 years old were admitted to hospital for illnesses or conditions relating to eating disorders in the last year for which figures are available. [311998]

Phil Hope: The information is in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes[1] where there was a primary diagnosis of eating disorders[2] by age and sex, 2008-09[3], activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Age	*Male*	*Female*
0-9	48	30
10	5	4
11	3	28
12	10	53
13	7	92
14	18	140
15	10	194
16	13	155
17	8	98
18	2	61

[1] *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Primary diagnosis (eating disorders)*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

ICD-10 clinical codes for eating disorders

F50.0 Anorexia nervosa
F50.1 Atypical anorexia nervosa
F50.2 Bulimia nervosa
F50.3 Atypical bulimia nervosa
F50.4 Overeating associated with other psychological disturbances
F50.5 Vomiting associated with other psychological disturbances
F50.8 Other eating disorders
F50.9 Eating disorder, unspecified
F98.2 Feeding disorder of infancy and childhood
F98.3 Pica of infancy and childhood

[3] *Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome was of his recent discussions with a delegation from the Isle of Man Government on reciprocal health arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [313048]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State had a positive meeting with a delegation from the Isle of Man on 19 January 2010. The meeting helped reaffirm the strength of the ties with the Isle of Man and provided a useful insight into how the termination of the reciprocal agreement was perceived there. It was confirmed to the Chief Minister that the agreement will come to an end on 31 March 2010. Both Governments have committed to review the situation for any possible negative consequences or unforeseen impacts. It was also agreed to work in close partnership with the Isle of Man Government to ensure the practical effects of the termination are communicated clearly to all those affected.

Hospitals: Admissions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* all patients and *(b)* patients aged (i) under 16 years old, (ii) between 16 and 74 years old and (iii) over 74 years old required emergency readmission within 28 days of emergency admission to hospital in each of the last three years. [311991]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information, based on information provided by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD), is in the following table. Information for 2008-09 is not yet available.

Emergency readmissions within 28 days of previous in-patient stay

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Number of emergency readmissions[1]			
Patients of:			
Under 16 years	72,333	72,843	77,631
16-74 years	292,729	301,982	309,589
75 years and over	152,279	154,044	159,134
All patients	517,341	528,869	546,354
Emergency readmissions as a percentage of all hospital inpatient admissions[2]			
Patients of:			
Under 16 years	9.38	9.53	10.00
16-74 years	9.01	9.25	9.38
75 years and over	13.90	13.90	14.08
All patients	10.11	10.30	10.50
Emergency readmissions as a percentage of all hospital inpatient admissions, adjusted for changes in case-mix[2,3]			
Patients of:			
Under 16 years	9.17	9.34	9.74
16-74 years	8.88	9.20	9.50
75 years and over	13.73	13.91	14.21
All patients	9.95	10.22	10.53

[1] Emergency readmissions are defined as emergency admissions occurring within 0-27 days of discharge from a previous hospital inpatient stay, excluding obstetrics, mental health and cancer.

[2] Number of emergency readmissions as a percentage of the total number of hospital inpatient admissions for the same financial year, excluding obstetrics, mental health and cancer.

[3] Adjusted to a 2003-04 baseline for variations (within each age group) in age, sex, method of admission and diagnosis/procedure.

Source:

National summary of data from the 'Compendium of clinical and health indicators', NCHOD October

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 60 years and over in *(a)* England and *(b)* Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency who had at least one emergency readmission to hospital in the last two years for which figures are available. [312197]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information available, based on information provided by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, is set out in the following table. Information on the number of people who have experienced at least one emergency readmission (as opposed to the total number of emergency readmissions), and information for the precise geographical area or age group requested, is not available and could not be obtained at proportionate cost.

Emergency readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge from hospital (excluding cancer, maternity and mental health patients)

	Persons 16 to 74 years		*Persons 75+ years*	
	FY 2006-07	*FY 2007-08*	*FY 2006-07*	*FY 2007-08*
England	301,982	309,589	154,044	159,134
Birmingham Metropolitan District Council	7,469	8,121	3,252	3,502

Source:

National Centre for Health Outcomes Development Compendium of clinical and health indicators (available at www.nchod.nhs.uk), derived from Hospital Episodes Statistics.

Hotels

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 758W, on hotels, what the cost of his Department's hotel booking contract has been since 2007. [311982]

Phil Hope: The Department uses a framework contract let by the Office of Government Commerce for its hotel bookings. The Department pays no fees for the use of this contract and the use of this contract enables the Department to make savings against the bookings made.

The total cost of hotel bookings made since 2007 through the contract are as follows:

	Hotel room bookings (£)
2007-08	1,245,739
2008-09	1,629,168

Industrial Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the health and safety advice issued to each new starter upon joining his Department. [311816]

Phil Hope: The Department is committed to giving new staff the tools they need to carry out their jobs effectively, as quickly as possible. This is achieved through induction, which is delivered in three parts—local induction activities, an online induction programme and a corporate induction day.

On arriving at the Department, staff receive an automatic welcome e-mail. This also outlines the different components of induction and how to access them. Health and safety is covered by Section 3 of the on-line induction programme, accessed via an intranet link. Local health and safety procedures are covered by the line manager on the first day of employment, as directed by the line manager's checklist.

A copy of the induction checklists and a text version of the health and safety section of the on-line induction programme have been placed in the Library.

Mentally Ill

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate has been made of the proportion of people who have mental health problems; and on what basis that estimate is made. [311952]

Phil Hope: One in six adults has a common mental disorder at any one time. This estimate is based on the 2007 Survey of Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adults living in private households in England.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Inquiry

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library at the earliest opportunity a copy of the report of the inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust commissioned by his Department and chaired by Robert Francis, QC. [313019]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Yes. The inquiry is due to report within the next few weeks. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State intends to place a copy in the Library in due course.

Monitor: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* the executive chairman and *(b)* each of the five paid directors of Monitor were paid in the latest period figures are available. [312695]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are advised by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that in 2008-09 *(a)* the executive chairman of Monitor received a salary payment of £235,647 which included a 5.5 per cent. non-consolidated payment of £12,001 and *(b)* the four non-executive directors were paid in £000 within a £5,000 band as follows:

	£000
Christopher Mellor (deputy chairman)	15-20
Jude Goffe	25-30
Elaine Murphy	15-20
Stephen Thornton	10-15

NHS: Finance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the Charity Commission on changes to accounting standards in respect of charitable donations to hospital funds. [311762]

Phil Hope: Officials have met with representatives of the Charity Commission, together with other stakeholders, on several occasions in the last year to discuss changes in the accounting standards in respect of linked charitable funds and national health service organisations. I will be meeting with the chief executive and chair of the Charity Commission on 28 January 2010 to discuss this issue further.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases funded by conditional fee agreements were closed in each of the last five years; in how many such cases damages were paid, whether by agreement to settle or award; in such cases where damages were paid, what the costs of defending the cases were; what the legal costs paid to the claimants for *(a)* base costs and *(b)* success fees were; and in cases where damages were paid, what amounts were paid in after the event insurance premiums. [312648]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 446W.

Non-profit Making Associations: Finance

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance his Department is providing to the social enterprise Your Health proposed by Kingston's Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement. [311853]

Phil Hope: Your Health has received £30,000 from the Right to Request First Wave monies that was granted to London strategic health authority in November 2009. A commitment of £619,000 has been made from the Social Enterprise Investment Fund to Your Health, which they intend to draw down over the next few weeks.

Your Health has received general support from the Department, alongside others considering social enterprise, in the form of attendance at peer-supported learning events.

Nutrition

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to make it a criminal offence for the food industry to manufacture and sell artificial food products which are known to have seriously harmful effects on health. [312891]

Gillian Merron: The sale of any food that is unsafe is already prohibited by Regulation (EC) 178/2002. Food is considered to be unsafe if it is either injurious to health or unfit for human consumption. The General Food Regulations 2004 and the General Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 create offences of contravening or failing to comply with the food safety requirements of Regulation (EC) 178/2002.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received from *(a)* professional, *(b)* campaigning and *(c)* other public health organisations on the effects on coronary health of artificial trans fats;

and if he will bring forward proposals to ban the sale of products containing artificial trans fats in light of the most recent evidence on those effects. [312892]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) carried out a comprehensive review of the health impacts of trans fats in 2007, and reported that voluntary action taken by the food industry to reduce the levels of trans fats in foods in the United Kingdom has been successful in achieving the reduction in dietary intakes to 1 per cent. of food energy. As part of this review the Government's Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) examined the evidence regarding the health effects of trans fat, including coronary heart disease (CHD). The SACN review concluded trans fat from partially hydrogenated oils has a moderate impact on increasing the risk of CHD and recommended that trans fats should contribute no more than 2 per cent. of food energy.

The FSA is aware that the World Health Organisation (WHO) published a scientific update on trans fats in 2009. This reviewed evidence since the 1993 joint Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations/WHO Expert Consultation on Fats and Oils in Human Nutrition, including the effects of trans fat consumption on CHD. The WHO conclusions are consistent with the SACN position statement.

The Government note the reports by the Faculty of Public Health and the Royal Society for Public Health regarding the banning of artificial trans fats from foods. However, given the reduction in levels of trans fat in the UK and the fact that no new evidence has come to light since, the 2007 SACN position statement, the UK Government believe that legislation would be unlikely to deliver any further health benefit.

The FSA continues to monitor the intakes of trans fats and encourages the food industry to eliminate them.

Prescription Drugs

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department undertook for the purposes of its consultation and impact assessment on automatic generic substitution in respect of assessment of the *(a)* effect on incentives for investments in research and development, *(b)* the potential health impacts on patients and *(c)* the one-off costs, ongoing costs and potential savings; and if he will make a statement; [312642]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that patients continue to receive the most appropriate treatment under its preferred approach in the proposal for automatic generic substitution of medicines; what role the quarterly reviewed select list will play in this process; and if he will make a statement; [312643]

(3) whether his Department consulted the National Patient Safety Agency during its discussions on proposals to introduce automatic generic substitution of medicines. [312644]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In developing the proposals and analysis set out in the consultation document The proposals to implement 'Generic Substitution' in primary care, further to the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) 2009 and its associated partial impact assessment, published on 5 January 2010, the Department was informed by input from stakeholders supported by published literature and in-house modelling.

The Department recognises that further evidence may be available, which is why we are holding a full public consultation, to which all those with an interest can input, including patients. We are also holding a number of consultation events (through NHS Primary Care Commissioning). The National Patient Safety Agency's views were not specifically sought before publishing the consultation document.

Under the Department's preferred approach (option 3), there are two mechanisms for ensuring that patients continue to receive the most appropriate treatment. Firstly, the creation of a select list will clearly define those drugs falling within the scope of the generic substitution arrangements. This list has been drawn up to include those medicines that deliver the most savings and excludes drugs where there are any general, clinical or patient safety concerns with regard to interchange between different manufacturers' products. Secondly, preservers' clinical autonomy to tailor prescribing to their individual patients' clinical needs will be maintained. Where a prescriber judges that there is a clinical need, a mechanism will be in place to ensure that patients can continue to receive a specific manufacturer's product.

The consultation document and partial impact assessment can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/index.htm

Copies have been placed in the Library. Details of the consultation events will be published on the NHS Primary Care Commissioning website at:

www.pcc.nhs.uk/events

Screening: EU Law

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect of the Physical Agents Directive on the number of patients per week who receive medical scans. [312348]

Gillian Merron: The Physical Agents Directive has yet to be implemented. The adopted Directive has been amended to provide for a later implementation date of April 2012 so that the European Union can reassess its potential impact. The Directive itself covers both optical and electromagnetic (EMF) radiation, but is specifically aimed at workers. Both the optical and the EMF parts of the Directive explicitly exclude patients. Therefore, there should be no effect on the number of medical scans patients receive each week unless implementation limits the types and number of scans that can be done because of exposure to clinical staff attending the patient. This cannot be assessed until the Directive is finally implemented.

Snow and Ice

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313589]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service. The NHS, as part of its planning process, ensures operational challenges such as adverse weather are factored into local contingency plans, including the cost of treating patients.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on swine influenza: disease control, what consideration he has given to the merits of *(a)* using the NHS number alone to track take-up of the vaccine and *(b)* requiring only monthly totals of vaccinations administered by each GP or practice to be submitted. [312649]

Gillian Merron: The Department's policy is to collect only anonymised statistical data for swine influenza vaccine uptake and therefore no individual patient identifiable data are collected as part of this vaccine uptake data collection. Using national health service numbers would have been inconsistent with this policy.

The Department only requires swine influenza vaccine uptake data from all general practices on a monthly basis. The weekly vaccine uptake figures are based on an automated extraction of data from about 40 per cent. of general practitioner practices. This data extraction places no burden on these practices.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 31W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission: industrial disputes, what the outcome was of each of the 15 employment disputes that were taken to an employment tribunal; and what the grounds of the dispute were in each case, anonymised where necessary. [312052]

Maria Eagle: The information requested in relation to the 15 employment disputes made by Equality and Human Rights Commission employees or recruits since the opening of the Commission in October 2007 is provided as follows:

1. Alleged less favourable treatment on grounds of transgender status, breach of statutory grievance procedure, breach of contract and unfair dismissal. Withdrawn.
2. Alleged race and sex discrimination. Claims dismissed at tribunal.
3. Alleged race and sex discrimination. Withdrawn.
4. Alleged sex discrimination, breach of Transfer of Undertakings (TUPE) and statutory grievance procedure and personal injury. Settlement agreed at tribunal.
5. Alleged constructive dismissal. Settled.
6. Alleged unlawful deduction of wages and breach of contract. Withdrawn.
7. Alleged race discrimination. Withdrawn.
8. Alleged constructive, unfair and wrongful dismissal. Withdrawn on agreed terms.
9. Alleged failure to consult under TUPE. Withdrawn.
10. Constructive dismissal. Settled.
11. Alleged less favourable treatment on grounds of pregnancy. Dismissed at tribunal. Claimant has appealed.
12. Alleged race and religious discrimination. Not yet heard.
13. Alleged disability discrimination in recruitment process. Settled on agreed terms.
14. Alleged disability discrimination in the recruitment process. Withdrawn.
15. Alleged unlawful deduction of wages. Struck out as not an employee of the Commission.

Prisoners: Voting

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's press release of 11 December 2009, on the Hirst decision of the European Court of Human Rights, what representations she has received from the Equality and Human Rights Commission on giving convicted prisoners the right to vote. [312014]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has made no representations to the Minister for Women and Equality on giving convicted prisoners the right to vote.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Liquefied Petroleum Gas: Distribution

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will take further steps to ensure more efficient delivery of liquefied petroleum gas to customers whose supplies have been affected by the recent severe weather. [312665]

Mr. Kidney: The distributors of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) have been working hard in challenging conditions to supply customers during the worst cold weather experienced for 29 years, particularly in remote parts of the country. My officials have worked closely with the LPG industry to make a robust case for the temporary relaxation of the enforcement of EU drivers' hours and working-time rules. Relaxing drivers' hours is very much a 'last-resort' option that can only be considered once all else has failed and once contingency plans have been fully implemented. I welcome the decision made by the Transport Minister to agree to the cases for the temporary relaxation given to LPG drivers over two week-long periods between 11 and 25 January. The Department will continue to work with fuel distributors in relation to resilience of supply chains.

Natural Gas: Storage

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the current size of the UK's strategic gas reserve is; and what the UK average daily winter gas demand is. [310097]

Mr. Kidney: Commercial gas storage capacity currently stands at 4.3 billion cubic metres (bcm); some 22 commercial projects could increase this very substantially by 2020. Based on data from the National Grid Winter Consultation Report for 2009-10, the average daily winter demand during the gas year 2008-09 was around 300-350 mcm/day; while the average demand for the coldest 100 days in 2008-09 was 365 mcm/day. Gas shippers have a number of options for sourcing gas. Indigenous supplies from the United Kingdom Continental Shelf, as well as imports through a range of expanded and major new import facilities, have important roles, in addition to storage.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many times the UK's strategic gas reserves have been drawn on in each year of the last 30 years; for what reason in each case; and if he will make a statement. [310102]

Mr. Kidney: Commercial gas storage capacity currently stands at 4.3 billion cubic metres. Gas shippers, which are incentivised to balance their gas supply/demand portfolios on a daily basis, have a number of supply-side tools for achieving this balance: through indigenous supplies from the United Kingdom Continental Shelf and elsewhere, and from imports, as well as from storage. This diversity of supply helped the gas market to perform well in the cold snap earlier this month.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Finance

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of the finance function of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority referred to in the publication "Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government"; and if he will make a statement. [312677]

Mr. Kidney: The finance data on NDA in the "Benchmarking the Back Office" publication reflect the cost of the NDA's head office finance function as a percentage of the total running cost of NDA head office. However, the role of NDA's head office finance function is not limited to managing the budget of its head office; rather it extends to managing the total budget of NDA's entire estate. Benchmarked against the total expenditure of the authority for 2008-09 of some £2.7 billion in 2008-09 the cost of the finance function represents only 0.1 per cent. of NDA expenditure.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made on the Government's commitment to raise the perception of energy demand from renewable sources to 15 per cent. by 2020; what assessment he has made of the contribution of the offshore wind turbines to be developed under Round 3 to this target; and if he will make a statement. [311272]

Mr. Kidney: Good progress is being made in meeting our target. In 2008, the UK generated 2.25 per cent. of its energy (electricity, heat and transport) from renewable sources, up from 1.8 per cent. in 2007 and 1.5 per cent. in 2006.

In 2008, electricity from renewable sources grew by 10 per cent. with offshore wind generation growing by a massive 67 per cent. and onshore wind by 29 per cent. Plant biomass grew by 39 per cent. over the same period.

It looks like the healthy progress in renewable electricity will continue. By the end of 2009:

7.5GW of renewable generation from a variety of sources was already in operation;

nearly 3GW more is under construction;

another 8.5GW has planning permission and is awaiting construction; and

over 10GW of future projects are going through the planning process.

In terms of the contribution of offshore wind under Round 3 to meeting this target, the Crown Estate has awarded Zone Development Agreements for the construction of up to 32GW of offshore wind by 2020. This figure represents potential; actual delivery will depend on a range of factors including the outcome of planning applications by the developers.

Renewables Obligation

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many renewable obligations certificates were issued to developers of renewable energy technologies in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; [313032]

(2) what the monetary value was of renewable obligation certificates received by the developers of renewable energy technologies in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [313033]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem issue Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) to generators for each MWh of electricity they produce from eligible renewables sources.

Ofgem publish data on how many ROCs are issued to individual generating stations each month on the Renewables and CHP Register which can be found at

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/

For the relevant obligation periods the following ROCs were issued:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of ROCs	18,032,904	21,629,676	25,477,265	28,975,678

The nominal value of each ROC received is determined by the avoided buyout price and the recycle amount. For the relevant obligation periods these were:

				(£)
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Buyout price	32.33	33.24	34.30	35.76
Recycle amount	10.21	16.04	18.65	18.61
Nominal value	42.54	49.28	52.95	54.37

It is a matter of commercial contract how much of the nominal value of each ROC a generator receives.

Wind Power

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guaranteed price Round 3 offshore wind development partners have been given for the future *(a)* energy they produce and *(b)* theoretical energy they could produce; and for what duration in each case. [311088]

Mr. Kidney: The UK system does not guarantee prices to energy suppliers—prices are determined by the market.

All offshore wind projects that receive full accreditation between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2014 will receive 2 ROCs/MWh under the Renewables Obligation.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the planned timetable is for *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* construction of each Round 3 offshore wind (i) generator and (ii) platform. [311092]

Mr. Kidney: Each consortium which has been awarded a Zone Development Agreement will need to apply to the relevant planning body for development consent to build and operate offshore wind farms in that zone. If development consent is granted, the actual timetable for commissioning and constructing an offshore wind farm project within a zone will be for the consortium partners to determine. It is anticipated that the earliest applications for consent could come forward from 2012 onwards; and should development consent be granted, the earliest projects may commence construction from 2014-15 onwards.

Wind Power: Job Creation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for his Department's announcement of 8 January 2010 that 70,000 jobs will be created by the 32 GW of off-shore wind power generation; what proportion of the funding for such generating capacity he expects to come from public funds; and how many of the new jobs he estimates will arise from construction and maintenance of port facilities to service wind power developments. [311294]

Mr. Kidney: The figure of up to 70,000 jobs is drawn from the 2009 Carbon Trust report "Focus for Success: A new approach to commercialising Low Carbon technologies", which estimated the potential net economic benefits of a range of low carbon technologies. The report is available to download free of charge from the Carbon trust website at

www.carbontrust.co.uk

The Carbon Trust report also estimated that some 40 per cent. of the jobs could be in installation and operations and maintenance, and some 35 per cent. in related services.

The Department has not made an estimate of the proportion of funding for such expenditure that is likely to come from public funds.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Law Officers' Departments: Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General which of the public appointments for which the Law Officers' Departments are responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restrictions, (iv) eligibility requirements and (v) timetable for each such appointment is; and what records the Law Officers' Departments keep in respect of such appointments. [312159]

The Solicitor-General: We are currently recruiting for the only public appointment within the Law Officers' Department, the post of Chief Inspector of HM Crown Prosecution Service, which we are hoping to fill in April 2010.

(i) The remit of the role is:

To lead and develop an independent, robust, creative and innovative Inspectorate whose work enhances public confidence in prosecution services.

To enable the Inspectorate to respond to changes in the criminal justice landscape and help raise the overall standard of prosecutorial practice and prosecution service delivery.

To lead the identification of strategic thematic areas for improvement and offer inspected organisations advice and support on key areas for development.

To work with and engage a wide range of key stakeholders across the wider criminal justice arena to improve the overall quality and standards of prosecution and delivery of increasingly effective and efficient prosecution services to the public.

To increase public awareness of prosecution services, and enhance the brand and reputation of both the Inspectorate and the prosecution services.

To deliver geographical and joint thematic Inspections working with other key inspectorates to improve consistency of standards and the sharing of best practice.

(ii) The salary for the role is £150,000.

(iii) The appointee may not occupy paid party political posts or hold particularly sensitive or high roles in a political party. Subject to the foregoing, the appointee is free to engage in political activities provided that they are conscious of their general public responsibilities and exercise a proper discretion, particularly with regard to the work of the Inspectorate.

(iv) There are no specific eligibility requirements although the candidates were assessed against a range of skills and experience such as a strong understanding of the criminal justice system and a track record of successfully driving organisational improvement.

(v) The selection process for this appointment is well under way. The preferred candidate appeared before the Justice Committee on 12 January 2010. The Committee's report is awaited. Once received the Attorney-General will consider the report before making any appointment.

The Attorney-General's Office holds records on all aspects of the selection process for this appointment.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General what public appointments are made by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Law Officers' Departments. [312168]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Attorney-General is responsible for the appointment of the Chief Inspector of Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Inspectorate (HMCPSI).

(b) No public appointments are currently made by officials in the Law Officers' Departments.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department and its agencies provided for social housing in Islington in 2009-10; and how much such funding he expects to be allocated to Islington in 2010-11. [311607]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 19 January 2010]*: The Homes and Communities Agency will report in their annual report and financial statements spend through the National Affordable Housing Programme in 2009-10 after the end of the financial year.

In 2009-10 between April and November 2009 the HCA has made new allocations of over £78.6 million for schemes in Islington within the NAHP. The HCA are continuing to make allocations for this programme under their continuous market engagement process. In addition, some £4 million has also been allocated for schemes through the local authority new build programme in Islington.

Islington should receive approximately £60,803,000 in housing revenue account subsidy (HRAS) in 2009-10, based on their subsidy claims submitted during the year. The 2010-11 HRAS entitlement for Islington will not be known until the end of March 2010 when the first claim form for 2010-11 is due to be submitted.

Audit Commission: Procurement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1261W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, how much the Audit Commission paid to *(a)* the Reform Club *(b)* AA The Driving School and *(c)* The Twisted Oak Pub in 2008-09; on what dates such payments were made; and what services were provided by each organisation. [311828]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 25 January 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission made the following payments to:

The Reform Club:		
9 April 2008	£4,423.88	Deposit for Commission's 25th Anniversary event held on 21/4/08
8 May 2008	£1,520.74	Room hire for Commission's 25th Anniversary event held on 21/4/08
AA The Driving School:		
3 June 2008	£546.38	Extra driver tuition
1 July 2008	£176.25	Extra driver tuition
11 August 2008	£176.25	Extra driver tuition
6 November 2008	£176.25	Extra driver tuition
31 March 2009	£178.25	Extra driver tuition
The Twisted Oak Pub:		
16 December 2008	£416.90	Christmas Party for 22 people (at that time the Audit Commission provided a staff social subsidy, which was subsequently withdrawn in 2009.)

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Audit Commission: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 58W, on the Audit Commission: public relations; if he will place in the Library a copy of the commissioned documents paid for on *(a)* 10 June 2009, *(b)* 12 June 2009 and *(c)* 14 September 2009. [311516]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Copies of the requested documents have been placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 59W, on the Audit Commission: public relations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the perceptions and influence map commissioned by the Audit Commission. [311550]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A copy of the document requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Co-ordination

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution his Department is making to the Ministry of Justice's proposed accommodation relocation and nationalisation project. [312034]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Communities and Local Government was formally consulted, as lead Department on regeneration, as to how any Ministry of Justice relocation could address regeneration needs and issues. This included contributing policy advice and expertise on appropriate analytical sources and techniques to help establish criteria against which any relocation could be measured, including where the Ministry of Justice could consider siting any national activities.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the Local Government Ombudsman has received in relation to waste collection services in each of the last five years. [312029]

Ms Rosie Winterton: For the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 the Local Government Ombudsman received the following number of complaints about waste collection.

Complaints about waste collection

	Number
2004-05	37
2005-06	43
2006-07	45
2007-08	47
2008-09	49

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will discuss with his US counterpart the applicability to UK building stock of the report on building sector energy efficiency presented by the US Administration to the Major Economies Forum in December 2009. [312450]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are always keen to learn from the experience of other nations in improving the energy efficiency of buildings but I have no plans to discuss this report with colleagues in the US Administration.

Floods: Greater London

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of new dwellings built in London were built in areas of high flood risk in the most recent year for which figures are available. [311628]

Mr. Ian Austin: In 2008, 20,590 dwellings were built in London. Around 4,500 (22 per cent.) of these were estimated to be built in areas of high flood risk.

The Environment Agency has statutory responsibility for flood risk management and flood defence in England. It has an important advisory role in all stages of the plan-making process, being a statutory consultee on the preparation of regional spatial strategies and local development plans. Local planning authorities are required to consult the Agency on all applications for planning permission (except for minor development) in areas with a medium or high probability of flooding, or in areas notified as having critical drainage problems (collectively known as "flood risk areas"), and for development on land exceeding one hectare outside flood risk areas.

The Agency also provides advice on the preparation of flood risk assessments at the regional, district/local and development site levels. The Environment Agency can ask for any planning application to which it objects to be called in for decision by the Secretary of State. In addition, the (planning) Consultation Direction requires that planning applications for major developments (e.g., of 10 or more homes, or 1,000 square meters of new floor space) in flood risk areas where there is an outstanding Environment Agency objection on flood risk grounds, must be referred to the Secretary of State for consideration of whether they should be called in.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what means the contents of the written ministerial statement of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on planning, appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* on the morning of 19 January 2010; and who authorised the provision of the information to *The Daily Telegraph*. [312931]

John Healey: No journalist had sight or copy of my written ministerial statement of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on planning before it was laid in the House.

Housing: Leaseback Arrangements

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what figures his Department and its agencies hold on sale and rent back transactions of domestic properties; [312002]

(2) how many sale and rent bank transactions of domestic properties there were in each of the last five years. [312857]

Mr. Ian Austin: Data on sale and rent back transactions are not held by this Department. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W.

Housing: Parking

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has commissioned research into the attitudes of home buyers in relation to the effects on buying behaviour of the availability of car parking spaces at new build houses. [312882]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has not commissioned any research on this topic.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have received Level 6 Code for Sustainable Homes certification. [312009][1]

Mr. Ian Austin: Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) is a zero carbon home with very high sustainability standards and is an incredibly high standard to build to. However, we now have a growing number of homes been built to this higher level of the Code.

It takes between 18 months and two years to design and build a Code home. The Code came into operation in April 2007, but we did not start seeing homes built to the Code standard until late 2008. The number of Code homes is increasing every month. At the end of December 2009, there were a total of 2,434 homes with Code certificates spread across all Code levels at post-construction stage (i.e. completed Code homes), 10,319 at design stage and over 300,000 registered homes on over 3,000 developments. Most of these homes are built to Code level 3—which represents for energy a 25 per cent. improvement on the current building regulations and is a demanding building standard. Homes funded by the Homes and Communities Agency are required to meet Code level 3 standard.

There are two stages in the assessment process for the Code and 110 homes have been certified.

Local Government Services

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of the two-tier joint working pathfinder project; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each evaluation report for the pathfinder pilots. [311521]

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[1] *[Official Report, 28 January 2010, Vol. 504, c. 7-8MC.]*

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1396W.

Local Government: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the completion of the Audit Commission's study into council publicity expenditure. [311712]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 25 January 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

No timetable has been set for the completion of the Audit Commission's work on council publicity expenditure.

The Commission Board considered evidence collected in response to the request in the Digital Britain report at its meeting on 17 December 2009. We expect to write to the Minister for Digital Britain with our findings by Friday 22 January 2010.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full time-equivalent staff work in his Department's local government review unit on unitary council restructuring. [312010]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are some 10 full-time equivalent staff working on the structure of local government including work on unitary council restructuring, and on improving the operation of two-tier local government structures.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for elections to the new shadow unitary authorities. [312011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As indicated in the Department's discussion papers issued on 6 January 2010 seeking the views of councils in Devon, Norfolk, and Suffolk on possible transitional arrangements, were the Secretary of State to decide to implement any unitary proposal for those areas, the first elections to any new council may be in May 2010 or in May 2011.

If the Secretary of State decides to implement any unitary proposal, he will then decide the transitional arrangements for implementing the proposal, including the timing of elections, having regard to the responses received to the Department's discussion papers.

Natural Gas: Storage

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the recent decision by Lancashire county council to refuse planning permission for a proposed facility for further gas storage capability in that area. [312339]

Mr. Ian Austin: I understand that there have been no recent decisions made by Lancashire county council in respect of planning applications for gas storage. However a planning application was made by Canatxx Gas Storage Ltd. for the creation of an underground gas storage facility in Preesall, Wyre, on 20 February 2009, and it is expected to be determined by the county council on 27 January 2010.

To date, no representations have been received by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of this planning application.

Non-Domestic Rates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average business rates charge in England in 2010-11. [311541]

Barbara Follett: No estimate of the average business rates charged in England for 2010-11 has been made, as this figure depend on the level of reliefs given, many of which are determined at the billing authorities' discretion.

For the purpose of modelling the 2010 transitional relief scheme, the notional chargeable amount (NCA) was calculated. The NCA for a given year is the product of the rateable value and that year's small business multiplier. The NCA is then compared to the previous year's reference value increased by the caps. The minimum of these two values was used as a proxy for the bill after transition but before all other reliefs. Details on the methodology and assumptions used can be found on page 49 of the "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England" consultation document. These include zero inflation, which does not reflect the latest information available, and adjustments for appeals.

A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures, including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Charities

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many charities in England are granted 100 per cent. relief from business rates. [312617]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many port companies newly assessed for business rates *(a)* have and *(b)* have not accepted the option of paying retrospective rates over an eight-year period; and how many have paid their new annual assessment to date. [312082]

Barbara Follett: The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency is being held to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside the port area are rated fairly in order that the burden of contributions to the funding of local government services is shared fairly between businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some within the ports. They have legislated to allow such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in one single instalment, thus helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87 per cent.

As at 23 December 2009, the Valuation Office Agency reports that there are 723 newly assessed properties within ports liable for backdated rates. As at 8 October 2009, local authorities reports that ratepayers occupying 200 properties within ports have been granted a schedule of payments agreement.

Of the remaining properties, local authorities report that 221 have fully discharged their backdated liability.

We do not hold information on how many of these are up to date on current rate bills.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1298W, on non-domestic rates, which 50 hereditaments in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the East Midlands, *(d)* the West Midlands, *(e)* the South West and *(f)* the East of England have the greatest percentage increase in rateable values from the 2005 rating list to the draft 2010 rating list; what the rateable value was (i) before and (ii) after revaluation in each case; and what the (A) postcode and (B) local billing authority of each hereditament is. [311799]

Barbara Follett: The tables showing the rateable value in the 2005 and the 2010 Rating Lists and postcode for the 50 individual hereditaments that had the biggest percentage increase between the two lists as at 2 November 2009, for the following Government office regions: the North West, the North East, East Midlands, West Midlands, the South West and the East of England have been placed in the Library. These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales", published on 18 December 2009. A copy of the statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

The rateable values have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for the Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures, including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Parks: Merseyside

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department has made available for the Mersey Coastal Park Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [312415]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Mersey Coastal Park Strategy is still being finalised but I can confirm that the Department has not provided any direct support to it. Wirral MBC is currently exploring potential funding options with local and regional partners including the Northwest Regional Development Agency and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Regional Assemblies

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional planning bodies are branded as regional assemblies. [311522]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Three regional planning bodies still operate as regional assemblies. These are West Midlands, East Midlands and the East of England.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [311987]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not available. The Department evaluates the impact of major programmes and policies. We do not assess the specific impacts on individual areas.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor Departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes details of evaluations.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to make a decision on the 199 proposals shortlisted by the Local Government Association and submitted to him under the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; and if he will make a statement. [313063]

Barbara Follett: The Government are currently assessing the complexity and practicality of the 199 proposals short-listed by the Local Government Association (LGA) in its role of Selector under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

The Government are also currently consulting and seeking to reach agreement with the LGA before deciding which proposals should be implemented. I will keep the House updated on our progress.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Action for Employment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hours of training A4e staff working on contracts let by her Department undertake annually. [310774]

Jim Knight: Staff training is an internal matter for A4e and therefore not one that the Secretary of State can offer information about, or comment on.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received carers' allowance in *(a)* Torbay constituency, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [312863]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Carer's allowance cases in payment for each of the last five years, as at May of each year, for Torbay parliamentary constituency; Devon and England

Date	*Torbay*	*Devon*	*England*
May 2005	940	4,680	367,810
May 2006	980	4,890	379,180
May 2007	1,010	5,090	389,370
May 2008	1,050	5,290	404,320
May 2009	1,090	5,490	428,350

Notes:

1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with underlying entitlement to Carer's Allowance but where carer's allowance is not in payment.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. England total has been derived by summing individual Government Office regional totals.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Cold Weather Payments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to publicise the application process for cold weather payments to *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* vulnerable households. [312718]

Helen Goodman: Information about the cold weather payment scheme, the eligibility rules and how payments are made is available to all client groups, including pensioners, via the Directgov website. For those without information technology, a leaflet "The Social Fund" which also outlines the qualifying criteria is available from jobcentres as well as through Directgov.

Cold weather payments are paid automatically to all those who qualify for them and no one needs to make an application.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 57W, whether the notification provides details of the dates for which the payment applies. [313065]

Helen Goodman: Cold weather payments are made when the average temperature has been recorded or forecast to be 0°C or below over seven consecutive days.

Payments are made using a mixture of forecast and actual-average temperature trigger dates. Unfortunately, because of the resultant complexities the automatically issued notifications do not contain details of the period for which the payment applies. However, the notification itself is dated.

We believe that it is important to have a scheme that ensures payments are made at the earliest opportunity and that they cover the whole of any relevant period. Any attempt to include details of periods in the automated notices is likely to create more confusion that in resolves.

Any manually input notifications do provide the date of a cold weather payment period.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets her Department has for *(a)* the acknowledgement and *(b)* the issue of a substantive answer to an enquiry from (i) an hon. Member, (ii) a media source and (iii) other sources. [310973]

Jonathan Shaw: In responding to all correspondence, the Department for Work and Pensions follows the Cabinet Office Guidance "Handling Correspondence From Members Of Parliament, Members Of The House Of Lords, MEPs And Members Of Devolved Assemblies: Guidance For Departments", which sets out a 20-day target for a substantive response for replies to an hon. member and other sources.

A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library and is also available online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/handling_members_correspondence/guidance_for_departments/guidance/targets.aspx

In line with most of Whitehall, the Department for Work and Pensions does not generally issue acknowledgements prior to the issue of a substantive reply.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department's information assurance procedures have been independently audited. [310974]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Epping Forest (Mrs. Laing) on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 762-63W.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what powers *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) her Department and its predecessor (ii) each of its agencies and NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309269]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and local authorities have the power to offer administrative penalties as an alternative to prosecution for benefit fraud. Section 115A of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 provides for an administrative penalty in respect of benefit fraudsters and section 115B provides for an administrative penalty for collusive employers.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission have power to impose penalty payments on non-resident parents who are in arrears with payments of child support maintenance. The power is provided by section 41A of the Child Support Act 1991. No payment penalties have been imposed since the power was commenced in 2003.

The Pensions Regulator has a number of administrative penalties which it can impose. A full list of these penalties has been placed in the Library.

No Administrative penalties were issued by the Pensions Regulator between 2005 and 2009.

The figures in the following table present the amount collected for administrative penalties by the Pensions Regulator since 2005. Amounts collected represent collection of penalties imposed by the Pension Regulator's predecessor, the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA). Data on amount of penalties collected by OPRA are not available.

Administrative penalties collected by the Pensions Regulator each year

	£
2005-06	4,000
2006-07	5,274
2007-08	8,060
2008-09	3,000

Note:
Penalty amounts collected do not correspond to the particular year in which the penalty was issued.
Source:
Pensions Regulator Accounts.

Information about other amounts of administrative penalties collected is not available.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what volume of waste her Department and its predecessors generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and (f) food waste; and what percentage of her Department's waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311837]

Jonathan Shaw: General office waste is managed for the Department for Work and Pensions by its PFI estate partner Telereal Trillium. Our largest waste stream is paper, and so efforts have been concentrated on increasing recycling of this paper across the whole estate. There is little scope for nationwide schemes to recycle further waste streams as the volumes generated in individual offices are too small to make a national system to segregate and recycle plastic, glass, metal or batteries either environmentally or economically viable. There are local schemes in operation run by Telereal Trillium or employees, but due to the administrative difficulties created by their small scale and informal nature, data are not collected.

Minimal food waste is generated within sites as the majority of food preparation is done off site, with ready to serve products delivered. Data on food waste have only been collected since last financial year and are detailed in the following table:

Food Waste

	Kgs
2008-09	39,755
2009-10	51,489

This is either disposed by way of maceration to the foul sewer or within the general waste stream and is included within the landfill figures.

Electrical and electronic equipment remains the property of our private sector partners, who manage and control the waste disposal. While duty of care is assured, we do not routinely collect management information on the volumes involved as it is not, strictly and legally, our waste.

Clean paper and cardboard waste is segregated and recycled securely, by cross shedding and pulping. All remaining office waste, often resulting from food and drink bought in by our employees, is disposed of to landfill. The following table provides information on the volumes of general office waste generated over the last three years:-

	Total waste volume (tonnes)	Recycled securely (paper/card) (%)	Disposed landfill (%)
2006-07	22,323	67	33
2007-08	20,343	64	36
2008-09	19,514	66	34

Electronic Government: Publicity

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers were used to support the directgov advertisement, Go DirectGov. [310199]

Jim Knight: The artists featured in the Directgov advertisement are Nick Moran, Honor Blackman, Janet Street Porter, Christopher Biggins, Kelly Brook and Graham McPherson (popularly known as 'Suggs'). Helen Mirren provided the voiceover. It should be noted that negotiations on the involvement of these artists in the project were conducted by the COI and all of the above agreed to participate in the project for a fraction of their normal commercial rate.

Directgov has the potential to enable Government to make substantial savings in shifting from traditional to digital channels. For those savings to be realised, it is vital that the public are aware of and trust Directgov as the Government's official website. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness so that Directgov is the first site people think of for Government information, and one which they both trust and recommend to others.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report,* columns 151-52W, on employment and support allowance, what information her Department holds on the reasons for which claimants of employment and support allowance stopped claiming before their assessment was completed; and if she will make a statement. [312238]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The information is not available.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the 95,000 jobs announced through the Future Jobs Fund will start between October 2009 and March 2010. [304389]

Jim Knight: The Government have approved over 250 bids to the Future Jobs Fund, which will create up to 104,000 jobs. This is an ongoing, demand-led programme and we are working with successful bidders to ensure that as many jobs as possible are filled as quickly as possible. We expect that a significant proportion will start before March 2010 subject to job availability and recruitment processes.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Future Jobs Fund jobs have been confirmed; and how many of them are guaranteed to *(a)* be permanent, *(b)* last for up to three months, *(c)* last for between three and six months, *(d)* last for between six and nine months, *(e)* last for between nine and 12 months, *(f)* last for more than one year and *(g)* last for more than two years. [312873]

Jim Knight: The first six bidding rounds will create up to 104,000 Future Jobs Fund jobs. While all Future Jobs Fund jobs must last a minimum of six months some bidders have decided to make their jobs last longer, however we do not have a breakdown of the expected durations.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 116W, on housing benefit, what guidance her Department and its agencies has issued to rent officers on the assessment of the appropriate level of housing benefit on a caravan or mobile home site which does not have planning permission. [312019]

Helen Goodman: None; it is for the local authority to establish whether a liability for rent exists, a rent officer would make their usual determinations of reasonable rents on a tenancy referred to them.

Housing Benefit: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women under the age of 18 years were in receipt of housing benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [312041]

Helen Goodman: As at October 2009, the most recent available information, there were 11,920 recipients of housing benefit in Great Britain who were under 18 years of age. The information is not available broken down by gender.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to respond to the letter of 18 August 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituent from Fraserburgh. [310727]

Jim Knight: I replied to the right hon. Member on 20 January 2010 and I apologise again for the time taken to do so. The delay was caused by an administrative oversight.

Pensioners: Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage take-up rate of council tax benefit was amongst pensioners in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [312059]

Helen Goodman: The latest estimates of take-up of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) are published in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08". Copies of this and past reports are available in the Library and online at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/irb_arc.asp

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the £200 payment to pensioners to assist with council tax bills made in March 2005 has not been repeated. [312856]

Angela Eagle: We always made it clear that the Government's commitment was to make the £200 payment to help with council tax bills for the year 2005-06 only.

Pensioners: Crisis Loans

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 408W, on crisis loans, how many and what proportion of crisis loan alignment payments were made to pensioners in the same quarter; and if she will make a statement. [310747]

Helen Goodman: The available information is given in the table.

Alignment payment final awards in Great Britain by quarter for people in the pensioner client group

Quarter	*Number*	*Proportion of total crisis loan alignment final awards (percentages)*
January to March 2007	550	0.4
April to June 2007	550	0.4
July to September 2007	490	0.3
October to December 2007	460	0.3
January to March 2008	480	0.3
April to June 2008	650	0.3
July to September 2008	680	0.3
October to December 2008	590	0.3
January to March 2009	720	0.3

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. The preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/National Statistics but in this case only management information is available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund computer system.
2. The alignment payment classification is based on the reason for the application, as opposed to the purpose of the award, which may be different.
3. Awards are final awards and include awards made on review (but only one award is counted for each application which is successful either initially and/or on review).
4. Numbers of alignment payment final awards have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP scans of the Social Fund Computer System.

Pensions: Temporary Employment

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department made of the effects on competition in the temporary and agency work sector of the four-year staging period for implementation of the Pensions Act 2008. [312895]

Angela Eagle: The challenge of implementing these reforms is unprecedented with over a million employers and over 10 million people affected.

In order to deliver the workplace pension reforms successfully, we are intending to stage in the new employer duties over a four-year period, starting with large employers, medium and then small.

Inevitably, staging of employers by size, including the temporary and agency sector, can affect the ability of all employers to compete with each other in the short term as some employers will face the cost of administering the reforms and contributing to their employees' pensions sooner than employers staged later.

We considered a number of approaches to staging, including segmenting employers by random selection, by industry type or by geographical region. We believe that staging by size offers the best balance of maximising deliverability while minimising employer burdens and competition impacts.

We believe that any impacts on competition will be short-term and outweighed by the overall positive benefits of our approach.

To further minimise competition issues we are also ensuring that employers will be required to contribute 1 per cent. of qualifying earnings throughout the staging period, before all employers move, at the same time, to 2 per cent. contributions, then 3 per cent.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has published on clearing pavements, roads and paths of ice and snow; what assessment has it made of the public legal liability implications of members of the public clearing public paths and pavements; and what discussions it has had with the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health on the issue. [311785]

Jonathan Shaw: Guidance on slips, trips and falls in the context of health and safety at work legislation is available on the HSE website. This includes guidance on dealing with the effects of severe weather.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 is a criminal law statute that is aimed at protecting workers and others who may be affected by work activities. It is enforced by HSE, local authorities, the Office of Rail Regulation, and other bodies such as the Crown Prosecution Service who can prosecute for breaches of that legislation.

Civil actions under, for example, the law of negligence are a matter for individuals and their legal advisers and do not concern HSE. It would be inappropriate for

HSE to make an assessment of the public legal liability implications of members of the public clearing public paths and pavements.

The statement issued by my right hon.. friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 12 January 2010, made clear that

> "....there is nothing in health and safety legislation to prevent a person taking sensible steps to clear a pathway to improve the situation, or volunteer to do shopping for a neighbour in need. Nor should anybody who volunteers to support their community feel they are in danger of being sued and be put off wanting to help others".

HSE was contacted by IOSH following publication of misleading media reports about the advice IOSH gives to businesses on clearing snow. HSE provided a link from its website to the clarification published on IOSH's site on 11 January.

Social Security (Students and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the average annual cost of implementing the Social Security (Students and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008; and whether her Department received additional funding from the Exchequer to implement that Regulation; [311601]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of students who have received assistance under the provisions of the Social Security (Students and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008. [311605]

Helen Goodman: There was no significant financial impact from these changes over and above the cost of the annual uprating of disregards for books and equipment and travel costs applicable to student income.

We do not collect information on the number of students who receive the disregard on books and equipment.

Social Security Benefits: Autism

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist people with autism to obtain support available to them through the benefits system. [310917]

Jonathan Shaw: Jobcentre Plus Advisers support autistic people who are seeking employment, and in their applications for benefits. Where the customer has more complex support needs they can be referred to a disability employment adviser who will have received further levels of skills training appropriate to their customers, including skills practice in interviewing an autistic person. Disability employment advisers can also advise on suitable employment opportunities, approach employers on behalf of customers and arrange for further help to be provided by a work psychologist.

Jobcentre Plus have a number of specialist programmes such as Work Preparation, Residential Training and WORKSTEP (a programme of supported employment) that can help autistic people move into paid work.

The Work Choice programme will be introduced in October 2010 to replace WORKSTEP and Work Preparation. The new programme will be more flexible to respond to the individual needs of disabled people and their employers. It will be aimed specifically at customers who, by reason of significant disability, cannot be helped by Jobcentre Plus mainstream programmes.

Autistic people going into paid work may be able to get support from Access to Work, which can provide practical advice and support to disabled people and their employers to help them overcome work-related obstacles resulting from disability. It does this through a system of grants towards the cost of providing support, such as a job coach, to settle an autistic customer into work. Access to Work can also support autistic customers by paying for the customer's colleagues to receive awareness training on autism.

Social Security Benefits: Debts

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 10 largest benefit debts owed to her Department by individuals were at the latest date for which figures are available; and to which principal benefit the debts related in each such case. [310658]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* From October 2009 we have set up a special task force to address debtors who owe the Department over £10,000. This will include debtors who have more than one debt.

Since its inception, the task force has recovered an additional £1.2 million between mid October 2009 and the early January 2010 from the high value debtors.

Since 2005-06, the Department has increased recoveries from £180 million per year to over £280 million.

We try to stop overpayments occurring in the first place. The Department's error reduction strategy will help to achieve this. It is based on preventing new error from entering the system; ensuring that customers and staff comply with benefit rules and identifying and correcting existing errors.

The 10 largest debts owed to the Department are as follows. These all relate to income support.

£136,567.94
£111,529.90
£105,028.81
£103,823.07
£101,430.23
£99,105.49
£98,689.61
£98,149.32
£96,657.81
£95,531.98.

Social Security Payments: Overpayments

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average her Department took to investigate alleged instances of benefit overpayment following the death of the claimant in the last 12 months. [310950]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* Our investigations start when the Department receives details of the grant of probate. Those probate records are then matched against departmental records of deceased income related benefit recipients. In the majority of such cases no discrepancy with the records is identified. In those cases where further inquiries are required, the average time taken to complete those inquiries is 15 weeks. This is from receipt of the probate, including obtaining information from the executor, and ending with a formal claim on the estate.

We handle such cases as sensitively as possible, taking into account that this can be a particularly stressful time if the executor is a close friend or family member.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions her Department has had with the Law Society on the number of personal estates that are prevented from winding up because of an ongoing investigation into alleged benefit overpayments by her Department. [310951]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* No such discussions have taken place with the Law Society.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on investigating alleged benefit overpayments to claimants in the last 12 months in cases where the claimant had since deceased. [310952]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The information is not available in the format requested, but is available for the last financial year. £3.0 million was spent during the year 2008-09 on investigating potential benefit overpayments in cases where the claimant was deceased, resulting in recoveries of £28.7 million.

Source:

Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of alleged benefit overpayments her Department investigated on cases where the claimants had since died in each of the last five years. [310953]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* Information on the number of investigations of potential benefit overpayments where the customer has since died is based on the volume of probate records that matched with deceased benefit recipients' records. This information is held only for the last two years.

	Number of cases where probate match received	*Number of those cases where a claim was made against the estate*
2007-08	51,829	6,492
2008-09	67,021	7,356

Source: Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money her Department recovered from the estates of recently deceased benefit claimants who had received overpayment of benefit in the last 12 months. [310955]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The information is not available in the format requested, but is available for the last financial year. The total recovered for 2008-09 was £28.7 million.

Source:

Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects.

State Retirement Pensions: Payments

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state pension payments were delayed in each month of 2009; what the monetary value of such payments was in each such month; and for what reasons a state pension payment may be delayed. [313094]

Angela Eagle: The information on numbers and values of delayed state pension payments is not available.

Delays in making a payment of benefit may be occasioned by all manner of factors including, but not limited to, customers failing to provide necessary evidence, volumes of work, inadvertent error or oversight and, delays in the banking or postal system. The PDCS do their utmost to ensure that any delays caused by factors within their control are kept to a minimum.

PDCS performance against clearance times are demonstrated in the following table:

State pension clearance times

Target 2008-09 and 2009-10, to clear 95 per cent. of new claims for state pension within 60 days

2009	*Percentage*
January	97.66
February	98.06
March	98.26
April	97.55
May	97.85
June	97.51
July	97.51
August	98.00
September	98.26
October	98.72
November	98.98
December	98.75

Source:

Pension Service Legacy System.

Winter Fuel Payments: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in Birmingham are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much her Department paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2009. [312781]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09 (the last year for which information is available), 167,020 people received a winter fuel payment in Birmingham at a cost of £39 million.

Notes:

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.

Winter Fuel Payments: Scotland

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of claimants of winter fuel payment in *(a)* Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and *(b)* Scotland who have had their claim wrongly refused because of administrative error. [312808]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many medical assessments were carried out in respect of claims for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) Milton Keynes in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those assessed were deemed eligible for those benefits on (A) initial assessment and (B) appeal. [310219]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of medical assessments completed is not available for Milton Keynes. Additionally, the DWP is not responsible for the administration of incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance in Northern Ireland. Information is available for Great Britain and England. This is provided in the following tables.

Total number of incapacity benefit scrutiny and completed examinations

	GB	England
September 2005 to August 2006	816,043	653,704
September 2006 to August 2007	985,598	789,899
September 2007 to August 2008	1,068,920	857,992
September 2008 to August 2009	717,250	507,748
September 2009 to December 2009	140,423	106,006

Source:
DWP medical services contract management information

Total number of employment and support allowance scrutiny and completed examinations

	September 2008 to August 2009	September 2009 to December 2009
GB	197,073	142,757
England	158,024	117,541

Notes:
1. Management information held by the Department does not separately identify PCA assessments in respect of initial claims to benefit, as all referrals were in respect of customers in receipt of incapacity benefit.
2. Excludes work focused health related assessments.
3. Data relate to the number of completed medical examinations and paper scrutiny clearances completed by Atos Healthcare.
Source:
DWP medical services contract management information

Information on the number of initial awards following these referrals is not available.

Data on appeals relating to IB claims are not held centrally. Detailed information relating to the work capability assessment for employment support allowance claims in Great Britain was published in October 2009 and is available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

A copy of the publication is available in the Library and details the number of initial assessments carried out since the introduction of employment and support allowance, a breakdown of the result of the assessment, including the fit for work decision and separate information relating to work capability assessment appeals.

Data relating specifically to work capability assessment appeals are reproduced in the table:

Work capability assessment appeals heard on 'fit for work' decisions—data to end of August 2009

	Number
Appeals heard	4,900
DWP decision upheld	3,300
Decision in favour of appellant	1,500

Notes:
1. Includes clerical assessments, we can infer that an appeal that links to a clerical assessment was very likely to be against a 'fit for work' decision.
2. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to Tribunal Service and heard, a limited volume of appeals heard data are held currently. Volumes will increase in the coming months as more appeals are processed giving a more robust picture of appeal volumes and outcomes. It will then be possible to link this information to the WCA data and provide information on proportions appealing.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many medical assessments were carried out for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) the West Midlands and (iv) Birmingham in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those assessed were deemed eligible for those benefits on (A) initial assessment and (B) appeal. [309965]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of medical assessments completed is not available for Birmingham. Additionally, the DWP is not responsible for the administration of incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance in Northern Ireland. Information is available for Great Britain, England and the west midlands. This is provided in the following tables:

Incapacity benefit scrutiny and completed examinations

Number

	September 2005 to August 2006	September 2006 to August 2007	September 2007 to August 2008	September 2008 to August 2009	September 2009 to December 2009
Great Britain	816,043	985,598	1,068,920	717,250	140,423
England	653,704	789,899	857,992	507,748	106,006
West midlands	78,502	95,421	91,396	62,592	15,122

Source:
DWP medical services contract management information.

Employment and support allowance scrutiny and examinations

Number

	September 2008 to August 2009	September 2009 to December 2009
Great Britain	197,073	142,757
England	158,024	117,541
West midlands	16,861	13,256

Notes:
1. Management Information held by the Department does not separately identify PCA assessments in respect of initial claims to benefit, as all referrals were in respect of customers in receipt of incapacity benefit.
2. Excludes work focused health related assessments.
3. Data relate to the number of completed medical examinations and paper scrutiny clearances completed by Atos Healthcare.
Source:
DWP medical services contract management information.

Information on the number of initial awards following these referrals is not available.

Data on appeals relating to IB claims are not held centrally. Detailed information relating to the work capability assessment for employment support allowance claims in Great Britain was published in October 2009 and is available at:

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2. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to Tribunal Service and heard, a limited volume of appeals heard data are held currently. Volumes will increase in the coming months as more appeals are processed giving a more robust picture of appeal volumes and outcomes. It will then be possible to link this information to the work capability assessment data and provide information on proportions appealing.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest hundred.

Working Tax Credit: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, how many people are in receipt of the disabled worker element of working tax credit; and when she expects to publish the results of her Department's review of the transfer of those in receipt of employment and support allowance to the disabled worker element of working tax credit upon moving into employment. [312065]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Snapshot estimates of the number of households benefiting from the disabled worker element of working tax credits (WTC), as at December 2009, are available in table 5.1 of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics, December 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

The Department for Work and Pensions' White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery. Achieving Full Employment" announced that the Government will consider the scope to passport people moving from employment and support allowance into work on to the disabled worker element and 16-hours rule in WTC. HMRC is exploring this proposal through consultation with the Department's Disability Working Group, which includes representatives of people with disabilities. This work will report to HMRC's Benefits and Credits Consultation Group; minutes of the Consultation Group are published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/meetings.htm

FOREIGN AND COMMONW[illegible]LTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Corruption

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the Answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 300W, on Afghanistan: corruption, how many officials from his Department are seconded to the multi-agency task force to support the implementation of an anti-corruption strategy in Afghanistan; [311584]

(2) from which Government Departments other than his Department staff have been seconded to the multi-agency task-force. [311667]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The multi-agency task force draws on 12 members of the British embassy in Kabul: three members from the Department for International Development, two from the Serious Organised Crimes Agency and seven members assigned to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that post sent to UK aid workers and others working in Afghanistan is processed as quickly as possible through Pakistan. [309735]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: As stated in our Travel Advice, conditions in Afghanistan mean we are only able to provide a very limited Consular service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not offer a Poste Restante service. It is the responsibility of the individual or their employer to ensure that sufficient arrangements are in place for their mail and other support services in Afghanistan.

Bi-Communal Civil Society Links

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress in the development of bi-communal civil society links in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [312737]

Chris Bryant: The Government have not made such an assessment. However, we continue to support events, activities and groups aimed at bringing Greek and Turkish Cypriots together and building inter-communal trust.

Cyprus: Politics and Government

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for success of the intensified round of settlement talks in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [312739]

Chris Bryant: The Government welcome the intensification of negotiations in search of an agreed settlement for the benefit of all Cypriots. Discussions so far have taken place in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with the aim of seeking greater convergence in the governance and power sharing chapter. We urge all parties to approach the negotiations in a spirit of compromise. The leaders have the support of the international community; we hope they will capitalise on this unique opportunity to find a solution.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcomes were of *(a)* his discussions with his Turkish counterpart on 12 January 2010 and *(b)* the Minister of Europe's recent visit to Turkey in relation to (i) Cyprus and (ii) Turkey's EU accession process; and if he will make a statement. [312839]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the Turkish Foreign Minister welcomed the intensified settlement talks in Cyprus. The Secretary of State also reiterated the UK's support for Turkey's EU membership and encouraged Turkey to continue making the necessary reforms.

I discussed both issues in my meeting with the Turkish EU Chief Negotiator, and noted that a settlement in Cyprus was a key objective for Turkey. I made clear the UK's support for Turkey's EU membership and announced jointly with the EU Chief Negotiator the establishment of a UK-Turkey joint Environmental Task Force to help Turkey meet European standards in environmental issues and climate change. I underlined the importance of Turkey's compliance with the Ankara Protocol.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made with the distribution of the 259 million euros allocated by the EU to northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [312840]

Chris Bryant: Over 99 per cent. of the EU aid package was allocated to individual projects by the European Commission before the deadline of 18 December 2009. A total of 880 contracts, most of them grants, have been signed.

Cyprus: Property

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will revise his Department's guidance in relation to property development in the north of Cyprus in light of the Court of Appeal judgment of 19 January 2010 in the case of Apostolides *v.* Orams. [313057]

Chris Bryant: Yes.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311257]

Chris Bryant: In December 2009 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid 97.5 per cent. of supplier invoices within 10 days of receipt.

The FCO is aware of the importance of paying suppliers promptly, and makes every effort to pay invoices as quickly as possible.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310804]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office operates in hundreds of locations around the world, many of which have their own local opportunities, facilities and regulations regarding recycling and waste disposal. The information requested is therefore not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost. However, we encourage the sustainable use, re-use and recycling of products.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what volume of waste his Department generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of his Department's waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311370]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office operates in hundreds of locations around the world, many of which have their own local opportunities, facilities and regulations regarding recycling and waste disposal. The information requested is therefore not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost. However, we encourage the sustainable use, re-use and recycling of products.

EU Debate Programme

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many events have been held under his Department's EU debate programme; when and where they have been held; what the cost of the programme is; what panellists have attended the events; how many members of the public attended each debate; what further events are planned; and which panellists have been invited to attend further events. [312230]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not currently have an EU debate programme but I am always happy to debate Europe with the hon. Member.

European External Action Service

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of officials in the European External Action Service to be seconded from the diplomatic services of EU member states. [312232]

Chris Bryant: The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is considering this question along with other issues involved in the establishment of the European External Action Service. As part of this consideration, the Council in October 2009 suggested that, when the European External Action Service has reached its full capacity, staff from member states should represent at least one third of European External Action Service staff, including staff in delegations.

G20: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what authority smoking rooms were set up for participants in the G20 summit. [311993]

Chris Bryant: Smoking rooms were not provided. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend Lord Darzi of Denham to the noble Lord Stoddart of Swindon on 24 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA111.

International Commission on Missing Persons

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget is for the UN Committee on Missing Persons in 2009-10; what recent assessment he has made of the progress the Committee has made in respect of its work in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [312738]

Chris Bryant: I visited the Committee last November and saw for myself the vital work it does in giving closure to the families of the missing persons and in promoting bi-communal cooperation in Cyprus. So far 596 sets of remains have been exhumed and the remains of 196 individuals identified and returned to their families (145 Greek Cypriot/51 Turkish Cypriot). This is an essential humanitarian task. According to the Committee on Missing Persons' website, their budget for 2009 is US $3,014,567.32. The Government fully support the Committee's work, have made direct donations, and donate to the annual budget via the EU.

Source:

http://www.cmp-cyprus.org/media/attachments/CMP/CMP%20docs/CMP_Budget_2009.xls

International Summit and Conference

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* date, *(b)* venue and *(c)* cost of (i) accommodation, (ii) transport and (iii) security was of each international summit and conference hosted by HM Government and attended by the Prime Minister in each year since 2007. [312491]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Isle of Man: Health Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the ending of the UK's bilateral health arrangement with the Isle of Man. [310631]

Chris Bryant: None. Reciprocal health agreements are the responsibility of the Department of Health.

Kazakhstan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Kazakhstan. [311409]

Chris Bryant: The UK values its strong, open and growing relationship with Kazakhstan. This covers energy issues, regional and international security and stability, democratisation and human rights, the investment climate and drugs trafficking and terrorism.

Energy security and supplies, together with the resultant commercial opportunities, are especially important. The UK is the third largest investor in Kazakhstan with over US$5 billion invested since independence in 1991. Bilateral trade is worth some US$3.5 billion annually.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed issues of shared interest with Foreign Minister Saudabayev on 8 January 2010, including Afghanistan and Kazakhstan's priorities for its Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2010.

Mexico: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Mexico. [311410]

Chris Bryant: We are working closely with Mexico on climate change ahead of the Conference Of Parties 16 in Mexico; on UN Security Council business during Mexico's two-year term as a non-permanent member; and, on responses to the international financial crisis through G8+5 and G20 mechanisms. We also work hard to strengthen bilateral trade and investment and encourage open markets.

In addition, we pay close attention to human rights and sustainable development issues in Mexico, and support projects locally. We work with Mexico on tackling the drugs trade and organised crime; and on supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Nigeria

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet representatives of relevant non-governmental organisations and representatives of the government of Nigeria to discuss child witchcraft stigmatisation and abandonment in that country. [312454]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary currently has no plans to meet representatives of relevant non-governmental organisations and representatives of the Government of Nigeria concerning child witchcraft stigmatisation and abandonment in that country.

However, our high commissioner in Abuja is in contact with the Governor of Akwa Ibom State which has been the focus of that problem. Our high commission has also sponsored a public enlightenment campaign in Akwa Ibom State and the work of a shelter that provides refuge and rehabilitation for victims.

We will continue to raise any human rights concerns we have in Nigeria with the Government of Nigeria, at all levels.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on the legality under international law of the blockade of Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [311402]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, given the significant control that Israel has over Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters, we consider Israel to retain obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as an occupying power. The Fourth Geneva Convention is clear that an occupying power must co-operate in allowing the passage and distribution of relief consignments.

We have made our concerns about Israeli restrictions very clear and will continue to press the Israeli Government to ease them.

South Africa

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the government of South Africa to seek to ensure that street children are not forcefully rounded up and removed from the streets in the lead-up to the FIFA World Cup in South Africa. [312421]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have made no representations to the Government of South Africa on the issue of street children.

Our high commission in Pretoria is supporting the Deloitte Street Child World Cup (SCWC):

www.streetchildworldcup.org

which will take place in Durban in March 2010. The SCWC will celebrate the potential of street children and place them centre stage in a new call for their rights to be realised.

Southern Africa: Travel Information

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has recently altered its travel advice in respect of areas close to the Cabinda province of Angola. [313023]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office made one amendment to its Travel Advice for Angola after the attack on the Togo football team on 8 January 2010. This amendment was a factual reference to the attack. The Travel Advice against all but essential travel to the interior of Cabinda province has been in place since June 2004.

Sri Lanka: EU External Trade

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the EU to make a final decision on existing preferential trade concessions for Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [311864]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The EU will make a final decision on the withdrawal of existing preferential trade concessions (GSP+) for Sri Lanka on or before the 15 February 2010.

Turkmenistan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Turkmenistan. [311411]

Chris Bryant: Our priority is to support Turkmenistan in becoming a stable and prosperous partner for the UK and EU. Turkmenistan can play a key role in the development of a Southern Corridor bringing gas from the Caspian region to the EU, and help diversification of supply routes to ensure energy security. To that end, we and our EU partners supported Turkmenistan's initiative for a UN resolution on the secure transit of energy supplies. UK companies are expressing interest in and seeking to develop business links with Turkmenistan.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Turkmenistan and will continue to raise these concerns in critical but constructive contacts with the Turkmen Government and via the EU human rights dialogue with Turkmenistan. There have been some improvements but further action is needed. The UK has provided practical support on reform of the penal code and media, and strengthening the rule of law.

TREASURY

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions the then Chancellor of the Exchequer had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the availability of funding for the purchase of military helicopters to be used for future services in Afghanistan in the period between 2002 and 2004; and what response was made to each request by the Secretary of State for Defence for funding to purchase such helicopters in this period. [311276]

Mr. Byrne: The Treasury received no requests for additional funding from the Reserve for the purchase of new helicopters for Afghanistan between 2002 and 2004.

Decisions on priorities for spending within MOD's allocated core budget settlement are a matter for the Secretary of State on the advice of the service chiefs of staff.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government reached a binding agreement with the Government of Iceland on the repayment of that country's debt to the UK prior to the Government's agreement to reimburse UK savers who had deposited funds in Icelandic banks. [311273]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government received assurances from the Icelandic Government that it would meet its legal obligations under EEA law and would repay the UK Government for the money it had paid out to Icesave depositors on behalf of the Icelandic Depositors and Investors Guarantee Fund ("DIGF"). Those reassurances have been repeated many times including in Iceland's letter of intent to IMF.

Last year, UK officials went to Reykjavik to agree the terms of a loan to reimburse the UK Government. On 5 June 2009, the UK Government entered into an agreement with Iceland and the DIGF which would enable the DIGF to refund the compensation paid out on its behalf by way of a loan from the UK. The loan agreement provided for Iceland to guarantee the repayment of the loan by DIGF. The loan agreement was amended in October 2009.

The amended loan agreement has not yet come into force. A number of preconditions must be satisfied before the agreement will come into force, including the enactment by the Icelandic Parliament of a Bill authorising the guarantee given by Iceland under the amended loan agreement.

British Bankers' Association: Finance

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each bank in receipt of public funding has spent on funding the British Bankers' Association since public funding was made available to it. [312196]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Government's interests in financial institutions are managed at arm's-length by UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI). UKFI's Framework Agreement with HMT requires it to manage the investments on a commercial basis and not to intervene in day-to-day management decisions of the investee companies. Operational questions are a matter for the banks' boards.

Cheques

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Payments Council and *(b)* British banks on the development of a practical alternative to replace cheques following the proposed closure of the cheque clearing system in 2018; [312391]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to small businesses of the proposed closure of the cheque clearing system in 2018; [312392]

(3) what steps his Department is planning to take to ensure that *(a)* vulnerable people and *(b)* small businesses will not be disadvantaged by the closure of the cheque clearing system in 2018; [312393]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* elderly and *(b)* disabled people of the proposed closure of the cheque clearing system in 2018. [312394]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The closure of Cheque and Credit Clearing, the UK system that processes cheques, is a commercial decision for industry. The Payments Council, an independent body that sets the strategy for UK payment systems, will ultimately take this decision. The Government, however, recognise that certain groups still value cheques as an important method of payment.

Before any final decision is made in 2016, and ahead of the closure of the cheque clearing system, the Council has committed to ensuring that adequate alternatives are in place for all users of cheques, in particular for users who are highly dependent on this method of payment.

Child Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of child benefit claims in 2009-10 to date have not been processed within *(a)* 20 days, *(b)* 40 days, *(c)* 60 days, *(d)* 90 days and *(e)* 120 days; and if he will make a statement. [312468]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, in light of the work required to construct an age profile of the processing of child benefit claims.

For information about the timeliness of child benefit processing refer to the answer given on 5 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 156W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, West (John Battle).

Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure that *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child tax credit are received by the parent with care in cases where the non-resident parent attempts to make a claim. [312548]

Mr. Timms: Where more than one person claims child benefit or child tax credit (CTC) for the same child, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will consider each claim in the light of the particular circumstances and the guidance published on its website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/cbtmanual/CBTM08000.htm

for child benefit; and

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/applica_appl_wl/ntc0050230.htm

for CTC.

The HMRC website also provides advice for the people involved in these cases at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefit/start/claiming/more-than-one-claim.htm#4

and

www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/start/who-qualifies/children/children-taxcredits.htm#1

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average it took to process a claim for *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child tax credit in the last 12 months. [312549]

Mr. Timms: For information about the timeliness of *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* tax credits processing I refer to the answers given to the right hon. Member for Leeds West (John Battle) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report,* columns 156W and 179W.

Child tax credit and working tax credit are claimed on the same form so it is not possible to provide separate information relating solely to child tax credit processing.

Performance outturn for 2009-10 will be published in due course.

Child Benefit: Complaints

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time taken to resolve a child benefit complaint was in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308182]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Information about the time taken to provide a substantive response to written complaints about child benefit is provided in the following table:

Response times to written complaints received in child benefit office

Cleared within	*Percentage clearance*	*Cumulative percentage*
2005-06		
Less than 1 week	42	42
1 to 2 weeks	23	65
2 to 3 weeks	25	90
3 to 4 weeks	4	94
4 to 5 weeks	2	96
Over 5 weeks	4	100
2006-07		
Less than 1 week	30	30
1 to 2 weeks	21	50
2 to 3 weeks	37	87
3 to 4 weeks	6	93
4 to 5 weeks	2	95
Over 5 weeks	5	100
2007-08		
Less than 1 week	20	20
1 to 2 weeks	24	44
2 to 3 weeks	27	71
3 to 4 weeks	7	78
4 to 5 weeks	4	82
Over 5 weeks	18	100
2008-09		
Less than 1 week	15	15
1 to 2 weeks	16	31
2 to 3 weeks	25	56
3 to 4 weeks	9	64
4 to 5 weeks	5	70
Over 5 weeks	30	100

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of childcare providers who have declined to accept payment through the childcare voucher scheme. [313195]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made. The Government do not collect administrative data on the commercial use or acceptance of childcare vouchers provided under the Employer Supported Childcare scheme.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311256]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury paid 96.2 per cent. of invoices within 10 days in December 2009 against a target set by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills of 90 per cent.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what formal mechanisms are in place for co-operation between HM Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions. [312405]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) work together on a daily basis to administer the UK's tax and welfare systems.

While much of this contact is informal, a variety of formal mechanisms are established as required to facilitate policy development and the delivery of operational project.

A full of list of these mechanisms is available only at disproportionate cost, as the information is not centrally held by either HMRC or DWP. Specific examples of formal joint arrangements include:

The Pensions Reform Programme Board, which oversees HMRC IT and business changes needed to implement DWP's state pensions reforms;

Pilot on small debt working, announced in a joint ministerial statement on 14 September 2009 and

Employment and Support Allowance Project, which manages the implementation of changes to this allowance.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for its websites in each of the last three years; and what budget was allocated to each category in 2009-10. [311844]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The costs of maintaining websites within the Chancellor of the Exchequer's responsibility in each of the last three years are as follows:

Financial year	*Maintenance costs (£)*
2006-07	150,524
2007-08	127,082
2008-09	178,299
2009-10 (forecast)	193,393

A detailed breakdown per category could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [312513]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the purchase of fixed assets can be found in the fixed asset note to the annual Report and Accounts from

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/dep_perf_reports_index.htm

There have been no vehicles purchased by the Treasury in the last three years. Purchases of furniture are included within the figures for 'furniture and equipment' and works of art within the figures for 'antiques'.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Government's Euro National Changeover Plan was last updated. [312162]

Ian Pearson: The Government's policy on membership of the single currency is unchanged. It remains as set out by the former Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in the statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003.

The third Euro National Changeover Plan was published on 9 June 2003. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of the Integrated Communication Plan for the Euro Changeover. [312163]

Ian Pearson: The Third Outline National Changeover Plan was published in June 2003 and provides a comprehensive statement of how the Government would manage a UK changeover. It also includes information on our euro communication programme. A copy of this document has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Equitable Life Ex-gratia Payment Scheme Review

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met Sir John Chadwick to discuss the payment of compensation to Equitable Life policyholders. [311656]

Mr. Byrne: I am in regular contact with Sir John and receive regular updates on the progress of his work.

The Government expect Sir John to submit his final report in spring 2010. Once the Government have had a chance to consider Sir John's advice, details of a payment scheme that is fair to both taxpayers and policyholders will be announced.

Excise Duties: Whisky

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much duty has been collected from the whisky industry in each of the last five years. [312382]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Historical receipts of duty collected from spirits can be found in Table 2 of the HM Revenue and Customs Spirits Bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullspirits

Information on duty collected from whisky is not collected separately.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to ensure Government procurement policies provide equal opportunities to businesses regardless of size. [311286]

Ian Pearson: Government procurement policy requires that contracts be awarded through fair and open competition, in compliance with EU treaty principles and UK regulations implementing the EU procurement directives.

Government are taking action to remove potential barriers to SME participation in public procurement. An OGC/BIS programme, Access for All, is currently making good progress in implementing the recommendations made in the Glover Committee report "Accelerating the SME Economic Engine".

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government departments and agencies have participated in electronic auctions facilitated by *(a)* the Office of Government Commerce and *(b)* OGC.buyingsolutions in the last 12 months. [312273]

Ian Pearson: In the 12 months between 1 January to 31 December 2009 the Office of Government Commerce has facilitated two electronic auctions which have involved the following Government Departments and related agencies:

HM Treasury

Department for Transport

London Development Agency

In addition, 66 bodies for the wider public sector participated including local government, police forces and health bodies. These two e-auctions had a combined value of £75 million going into the auction and generated savings of £16.55 million.

The following Government Departments and Agencies have participated in electronic auctions facilitated by Buying Solutions (formerly OGCbuying.solutions) in the same 12 month period:

Department for Communities and Local Government

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

In addition, 32 bodies from the wider public sector also participated. The e-auctions facilitated by Buying Solutions had a combined value of £248.7 million going into the auction, and generated savings of £47.9 million

Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of owners of furnished holiday letting properties who are over the state retirement age. [310262]

Mr. Timms: An estimated 16,000 individuals over state retirement age owned properties used for furnished holiday lettings in 2007-08.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies have spent on fees of third party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation in each such year. [309233]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008-09 the following room nights were booked by Ministers and officials through the booking firm used by the Department and its agencies—HM Treasury 1,074, the Debt Management Office 11 and the Office of Government Commerce 1,990. This information may not be a complete record of all room nights booked as accommodation can be booked by directly by staff. Information on room nights booked in 2007-08 is not available. The Department does not pay third party agency fees but does receive a share of the commission earned by the booking firms.

Housing: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the contribution of that Department towards the housing expenditure in the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10. [308705]

Mr. Byrne: The Government announced via Building Britain's Future on 29 June 2009 that they would invest a further £1.5 billion over the next two years to build an extra 20,000 new energy efficient, good quality, social and affordable homes, and a further 10,000 additional homes for private sale. The funding of the measure included a contribution from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) of £100 million, with a possible further contribution as part of the £340 million anticipated capital underspends in the Department of Health, DCSF, and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Rent Service handbook for valuing rental property for housing benefit purposes. [311660]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency's Rent Officer Handbook has been published on the VOA website and can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/ROH/Frame.htm

In addition a hard copy will be placed in the Library.

Imports: Morocco

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much has been received by the Exchequer in duties collected from companies importing *(a)* produce and *(b)* goods into the UK from Moroccan settlements in occupied Western Sahara in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [312310]

(2) how many consignments of Moroccan goods entered the UK in each of the last three years. [312464]

Mr. Timms: As a member of the European Union, the UK operates European Union customs legislation and tariff measures at its borders. European customs procedures do not contain a separate country code for Western Sahara. The absence of a specific country code means that the information requested is not available, and it is not possible to put in place the monitoring procedure requested.

The information requested on imports into the UK from Morocco are provided in the following table.

Consignments imported into the UK from Morocco

	Number	Value (£)
2007	91,972	409,919,889
2008	73,580	406,090,728
2009	59,962	302,691,526

Income Tax: Low Incomes

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of working *(a)* men and *(b)* women earning less than the income tax personal allowance threshold in each local authority area; [313099]

(2) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of working *(a)* men and *(b)* women earning less than £10,000 per annum and paying income tax resident in each local authority area. [313100]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, due to the small sample sizes at local authority area with the Survey of Personal Incomes and non-representative data for non-taxpayers.

Information on income tax by unitary authority can be found in table 3.14 "Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority", available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314

These estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2006-07 is the latest available period.

Any inference from the information in table 3.14 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.14a "Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority, Confidence Intervals".

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 109 of the pre-Budget report 2009, Cm 7747, whether the expected £550 million of savings from local government are to be achieved from local government in *(a)* England or *(b)* the UK. [311549]

Mr. Byrne: The £550 million of savings identified in the 2009 pre-Budget report relate to local government in England only.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 109 of the pre-Budget report 2009, what proportion of the planned £550 million of local government savings will be from more efficient waste collection and disposal; and how such savings will be achieved. [311622]

Mr. Byrne: The pre-Budget report sets out a number of areas where local government will be able to find significant efficiencies by 2012-13. Treasury officials have worked closely with Communities and Local Government and DEFRA officials to establish that waste collection and disposal is one area where significant savings are achievable. However, it is for individual local authorities to make efficiencies based on local priorities and use of resources in these and other services.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tenanted properties were repossessed by mortgage lenders from landlord owners in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry between 2005 and 2009; what assistance his Department provides to tenants who are evicted as a result of such repossessions; and what recent representations his Department has received on the matter. [313046]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

The issue of tenants being evicted at short notice as a result of landlord repossession was raised with the Department in early 2009. Representations were received from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, Shelter, Crisis, Citizens Advice and the Chartered Institute of Housing. The problem of short notice eviction of tenants is due to a legal gap in protection.

Tenants who receive notice that their landlord is to be repossessed by their lender should make themselves known to the lender as soon as possible in order that the lender can take them into account.

In August 2009 the Government issued a consultation document—"Lender repossession of residential property: protection of tenants". As a result of this consultation the Government are supporting a Private Members Bill being taken forward by Dr. Brian Iddon. Second reading of the Mortgage Repossessions (Protection of Tenants etc) Bill is to take place on 29 January. The Bill gives tenants the opportunity to request a delay to possession while they find alternative accommodation. The Bill was published on 22 January. The associated Impact Assessment was also made available on this date. The Impact Assessment makes some estimates of the numbers of tenants who have suffered short notice eviction as a result of landlord repossession.

There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2456

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of tenants who were evicted as a result of repossession of property by a mortgage lender in cases where landlords had not obtained the lender's permission to rent in the latest period for which figures are available. [313047]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org[illegible]/cml/media/press/2456

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Dr. Brian Iddon is taking forward a Private Members Bill The Protection of Tenants (Mortgage Repossessions) Bill which will have its second reading on 29 January. The associated Impact Assessment (which is available in the Library of the House) contains estimates of tenanted properties which were repossessed by lenders.

PAYE

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many income sources *(a)* terminated and *(b)* commenced during (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [312320]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally held by HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

Portsmouth Gunwharf: Repayments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the owners of the Gunwharf site in Portsmouth have paid to the Exchequer in clawback payments; and on what date each instalment of such payments was received. [311290]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

Clawback payments totalling some £4 million were made in financial year 2002-03 by the owners of the Gunwharf site in Portsmouth. The precise details of those payments are regarded as commercially confidential, therefore, I am withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Private Finance Initiative: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private finance initiative projects have been undertaken by his Department in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency in the last five years. [311030]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and the annual unitary charge that needs to be paid over the life of the contract.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of preparing whole of Government accounts was in each year since 2000. [310557]

Mr. Byrne: The costs of preparing whole of Government accounts is not readily available, as the information is spread and held across the approximate 1,200 bodies that contribute to the account. The information could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate expense.

Revenue and Customs: Banbury

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has plans for staff redundancies at the Banbury tax office. [310989]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) announced its decision to withdraw from the office at Crown Buildings, Banbury by spring 2011 on 17 July 2008 as part of the Department's Workforce Change programme. The office's closure will not affect enquiry centre services, which will continue to be provided at or near the current location.

On 13 January 2010 HMRC announced that the office would close for business in 2010-11 and that staff who are unable to relocate are now eligible to apply for voluntary redundancy on compulsory terms. This affects 26 of the 32 staff currently working in Banbury. HMRC remains committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies wherever possible and will work to redeploy those staff who wish to remain in the Civil Service both within HMRC and to other Government departments.

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on reasons for which complaints were made to Revenue and Customs about its services in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [312144]

Mr. Timms: Since April 2007, HM Revenue and Customs has maintained a complaints database to help the Department understand why complaints are made and act to address this. Within the database, complaints are assigned to one of the following core categories: delay, staff conduct, process/system, policy/legislation, communication, misleading advice, loss/damage, mistake/error, compensation/costs claim and discrimination.

Centrally held data are not available prior to April 2007.

Revenue and Customs: Elgin

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes was (i) collected and (ii) administered by HM Revenue and Customs' office in Elgin in each year since 2006. [312379]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost due to the work required to extract it from HM Revenue and Customs' systems.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were based at HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisations' office in Elgin in each year since 2006. [312380]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following table:

As at 1 April	*Headcount*	*FTE*[1]
2006	5	5.00
2007	5	5.00
2008	5	5.00
2009	1	1.00

[1] FTE relates to full time equivalent

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs plans to take to retain the knowledge of the whisky industry of the staff at its Elgin office following the closure of that office. [312381]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: When the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Elgin closes the work undertaken there relating to the whisky industry will relocate to Aberdeen. HMRC's expectation is that the Elgin staff currently involved with the whisky industry would relocate with their work if able to do so, enabling them to use their existing skills and expertise alongside staff in Aberdeen with whisky industry experience already in place there.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consultation HM Revenue and Customs held with its staff based at Elgin over the workforce change programme; [312383]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect that the closure of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Elgin will have on the provision of face-to-face advice for clients; how far the nearest HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centre providing face-to-face advice for clients will be from Elgin following that closure; and what the estimated disposal costs are following the closure of the HM Revenue and Customs offices in Elgin. [312389]

Mr. Timms: Staff at the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Phoenix House, Elgin, were invited to give their views on the proposal to vacate the office during an eight week period from 11 June to 6 August 2008.

Following the announcement on 4 December 2008 that HMRC would withdraw from Phoenix House, Elgin managers have held one-to-one meetings with staff to discuss their options, taking account of individual personal circumstances. A regional implementation team was set up to explore redeployment options and find suitable opportunities within HMRC and in other Government Departments and agencies. Seminars for all affected staff are being held, and further support is being planned for those staff who want to continue their civil service careers.

Face to face advice services are not provided from HMRC's office at Phoenix House, Elgin. Inquiry centre services will be maintained at Buckie, which is approximately 13 miles from Elgin.

HMRC occupies Phoenix House under contract with its estates provider, Mapeley, and this contract includes a high level of flexibility for HMRC to vacate properties at nil or limited cost during the life of the contract. HMRC intends to maximise the use of the contract's flexibility and until vacation plans for Phoenix House are finalised, it is not known whether disposal costs will be applicable.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation HM Revenue and Customs undertook with the representatives of the whisky industry over the closure of its office in Elgin. [312384]

Mr. Timms: Prior to the decision to close the office at Phoenix House, Elgin, HM Revenue and Customs consulted with staff and unions, customers, MPs, local authorities and town councils.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assistance HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has offered staff at Elgin over the workforce change programme; whether HM Revenue and Customs plans any compulsory redundancies in respect of its staff at its offices in Elgin; and how many staff at those offices will be redeployed by HMRC to other locations. [312390]

Mr. Timms: Following the announcement on 4 December 2008 that HMRC would withdraw from its office at Phoenix House, Elgin, managers have held one-to-one meetings with staff to discuss their options, taking account of individual personal circumstances. A regional implementation team was set up to explore redeployment options and find suitable opportunities within HMRC and in other Government Departments and agencies. Seminars for all affected staff are being held, and further support is being planned for those staff who want to continue their civil service careers.

There is one HMRC employee in Elgin for whom redeployment options are being explored. Staff who cannot be redeployed are eligible to be considered for voluntary redundancy on compulsory terms. HMRC is committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies wherever possible.

Revenue and Customs: Surveys

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the outcomes were of the HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* Customer Journeys Individuals (two phases) and *(b)* Complaints Tracking Research (three phases) survey completed since 2006. [312157]

Mr. Timms: The Customer journeys research is designed to help HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) understand interactions from the customer perspective The information and data from this research are used in analysis of our processes. A summary of this research is due to be published in line with HMRC's publication policy.

The Complaints Tracking Research is a rolling survey of customers whose complaints have been finalised. The survey measures customer satisfaction with HMRC's complaints handling procedures and the information is used to improve the handling of complaints. A summary of the research is due to be published in line with HMRC's publication policy.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of calls to the tax credits helpline were terminated before being answered by an operator in *(a)* the month preceding the tax credits renewal deadline and *(b)* the full year of (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308207]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following tables. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have taken "terminated" to mean the number of calls that were played a busy message and which asked customers to ring back later together with the number of calls where the customer was placed into a queue to speak with an adviser, but abandoned the call before being connected.

During peak periods, customers who cannot get through on their first attempt often use the redial facility on their telephone to make numerous successive calls which increases the number and proportion of unanswered calls.

Performance during peak periods has shown significant improvement with HMRC handling over 74 per cent. of call attempts during the tax credits peak (April to July) in 2009-10 compared with 37 per cent. during the same period in 2008-09. The most recent results from HMRC's customer satisfaction survey shows a result of 89 per cent. for overall customer satisfaction, which compares well with private sector benchmark of 87 per cent.

Month preceding the renewal deadline	*Number of busy and abandoned[1] calls (million)*	*Busy and abandoned calls (as a percentage of call attempts)*
July 2009	1.8	32
July 2008	7.4	66
July 2007	2.9	39
August 2006	0.3	10
September 2005	1.6	36

Year/period	*Number of busy and abandoned[1] calls (million)*	*Busy and abandoned calls (as a percentage of call attempts)*
2009-10 (April to November)	5.5	23
2008-09	17.2	41
2007-08	7.3	23
2006-07	2.1	8
2005-06	5.4	19

[1] Abandoned, where the call was disconnected after the caller selected an option from the call steering menu, but before being connected to speak to an adviser.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 590W, on HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), what measures and indicators HMRC uses to count the number and frequency of telephone calls that are *(a)* not answered and *(b)* not answered promptly. [312436]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' Contact Centres, which handle the majority of HMRC telephone inquiries, use a variety of measures and indicators to gauge the level of performance. The main measures used to identify the number of calls which are not answered are the number of: engaged tones, busy messages played and calls abandoned in the queue.

HMRC also measure the number of call attempts successfully handled, which gives another indication of unfulfilled demand.

HMRC Contact Centres do not have a specific measure for calls that are not answered promptly, however in common with the wider call centre industry, the Department measures the number and percentage of calls that are offered into the queue to speak to an adviser and which are then answered within 20 seconds.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what telephone lines are available for hon. Members to contact HM Revenue and Customs. [312612]

Mr. Timms: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 375W.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [311990]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all parts of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work.

In Slough people are benefiting from this investment. Over the second half of 2009, more than 700 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. The claimant count fell for two consecutive months in November and December and now stands more than 7 per cent. below its October level. Long-term unemployment is still 90 per cent. lower than in 2000 at the end of 2009.

Social Security Benefits

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average length of time taken was for *(a)* all claimant and *(b)* claimants who are citizens of EU A8 and A2 countries of tax credits who dropped their claim before receiving payment between receipt and dropping of the claim in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09; [308168]

(2) what proportion of *(a)* tax credit and *(b)* child benefit claims by (i) all claimants and (ii) claimants who were citizens of EU A8 and A2 countries did not result in payment in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09. [308209]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) systems do not centrally capture information on the time between a claim for tax credits or child benefit being made and it being withdrawn or rejected.

Tax credits and child benefit claims might not result in payment for several reasons. For example, claimants can withdraw their claim before it is awarded, eligibility criteria might not be met or claimants might not be entitled to tax credits because their income exceeds the upper threshold. Claims might also be withdrawn or rejected by HMRC for administrative reasons.

Information about child benefit and tax credits claims made by nationals from A8 countries between May 2004 and March 2009 is included in the Accession Monitoring Report published by the Home Office UK Border Agency, available at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/

Equivalent information about claimants from A2 countries is shown in the following table:

A2 Claims for child benefit—United Kingdom

Period	*Claims received*	*Claims approved*	*Claims rejected*	*Awards terminated*
2007-08	4,304	2,326	533	6
2008-09	5,340	3,231	1,229	13
Totals	9,644	5,557	1,762	19

A2 Claims for tax credits—United Kingdom

Period	*Claims received*	*Claims approved*	*Claims rejected*
2007-08	990	556	75
2008-09	1,263	931	134
Totals	2,253	1,487	209

Notes:

1. The tables show counts of events occurring in each period, as identified by HMRC monitoring, not the results of claims arriving in that period. If an A2 national appears in more than one clain, then all his/her claims are included in this table.

2. The figures for 2007-08 include those for Quarter 1 in the calendar year 2007, to take account of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU on 1 January 2007.

3. The figures for 2008-09 are based on Quarters 2 to 4 in the calendar year 2008 and Quarter 1 in the calendar vear 2009.

4. For both child benefit and tax credits, there are cases where a claim may be processed in a different month to that in which it was received and therefore the number of claims received will not total the number of approved and rejected claims. This is because once a claim is received HMRC makes further enquiries about the claimant's date of arrival in the UK and employment status, in order to ascertain whether the claimant has a right to reside.

Tax Allowances

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of making the personal allowance transferable between members of couples individually subject to the basic rate of income tax who marry and have children after 1 April 2011 in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [311061]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The cost to the Exchequer of making the personal allowance transferable between couples individually subject to the basic rate of income tax, will depend on whether one or both members of the couple are subject to the basic rate of income tax; and if one, whether the intended focus is for second member to be subject to a higher rate of income tax, or alternatively a zero rate of income tax. Any answer would be highly dependent on these factors.

Taxation

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the status is of the national implementation programme for the In and Out of Work scheme. [312147]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Following evaluation of the initial trials and pilots in 2007 and 2008, implementation of the In and Out of Work processes has been rolling out nationally since October 2008.

The In and Out of Work Project has been working to ensure the new service reaches all local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales and to date, it has been implemented in 370 out of 408 authorities. Rollout is scheduled to be completed by March 2010.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many programmes for which HM Revenue and Customs is responsible have a verification procedure for access by users to *(a)* their tax records and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs officials for discussions on their tax arrangements. [312408]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has a legal duty to protect the confidentiality of taxpayer information. Only authorised users may access HMRC services and access or submit data relating to them. Customers have to give their consent in writing if they wish an agent or personal representative to act on their behalf.

HMRC uses leading technologies and encryption software to safeguard data and operates strict security standards across the whole of its IT estate to prevent any unauthorised access to it. All customers who use the Department's online services to access their tax records are required to register and enrol with the UK Government Gateway to obtain a unique online User ID. Before they can access their records they must log in and provide further information to enable HMRC to verify their identity.

All individuals calling HMRC have to answer a series of security questions to validate their identity, before any tax information held on HMRC's systems can be disclosed. Customers who fail to satisfy the identity checks will be asked to put their inquiry in writing.

The Department operates strict internal security and audit arrangements in relation to officials' access to taxpayer accounts, with stringent control and monitoring processes to ensure that staff access to individual accounts is allocated and used strictly according to business need.

All staff accesses to taxpayer accounts are recorded automatically by HMRC's systems to identify any fraudulent or misappropriate use of access. The National Audit Office also audits HMRC's security arrangements as part of its yearly audits of the Department's major processes.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is for the statement in his Department's document, "Impact assessment of withdrawing the furnished holiday letting rules", that the difference in the tax treatment between furnished holiday lettings in the UK and furnished holiday lettings in the rest of the European Economic Area may not comply with European law; and when his Department was first informed of that evidence. [311585]

Mr. Timms: As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of its legal advice.

Taxation: Property

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the extent of the practice of re-designating property ownership to avoid tax liability on the sale of second homes; and what estimate he has made of the likely effect on revenue of such practices in the last 12 months. [310419]

Mr. Timms: No such assessment has been made, as it is not possible to distinguish between the cost of private residence relief attributable to nominations of main residences for avoidance and non-avoidance purposes.

HMRC apply a risk-based approach to investigating any cases where they suspect an individual has nominated a property as the main residence on a spurious basis.

Valuation Office

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals from which ports against the *(a)* new rating assessments and *(b)* demands for retrospective payments by the Valuation Office Agency have gone to (i) regional hearings, (ii) lands tribunals and (iii) judicial reviews; and what funding his Department has provided to the Agency to meet its legal costs arising from such cases in 2009-10. [312095]

Ian Pearson: Of the 567 proposals (appeals) settled under the fast track arrangements introduced by the Valuation Office Agency from 24 November 2008, (i) 18 have been heard before independent valuation tribunals, (ii) none have been heard before the Lands Tribunal and (iii) none have gone to judicial review.

No additional funding has been provided to the Valuation Office Agency to deal with such cases.

Valuation Office: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether remuneration arrangements for members of the Valuation Office Agency board include benefits in kind. [313086]

Ian Pearson: The remuneration arrangements for members of the Valuation Office Agency board do not include benefits in kind.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to prevent poor and vulnerable people being required to repay overpayments of tax credits received for 2003-04 and 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [311392]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) approach to recovering overpayments is designed to prevent hardship and does not vary according to the tax year.

For information on HMRC's approach to hardship I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett), on 20 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 212W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

China: Overseas Aid

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department provided to China in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [312018]

Mr. Michael Foster: Final calendar year out-turn for 2009 will be available in March 2010.

Information on in country expenditure is published annually in Statistics on International Development (SID), which is available on the Department for International Development's (DFID's) website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

Departmental Carbon Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* associated non-departmental public bodies plan to sign up to the 10:10 ca[illegible] cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if he will pu[illegible] (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [312111]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) signed up to the 10:10 campaign to cut carbon usage in October 2009.

The only non-departmental public body to which DFID is associated is the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). The CSC, which does not own any premises, is not a signatory to the 10:10 campaign.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many iPODs have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311914]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not retain a central record of iPODS purchased. Collating this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for its websites in each of the last three years; and what budget was allocated to each category in 2009-10. [311843]

Mr. Michael Foster: The reporting of costs in these categories for the last three years cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what volume of waste his Department and its predecessors generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of his Department's waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311839]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) reported waste from its UK operations was as follows:

			Percentage
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total Waste (tonnes)	329	264	227
of which:			
Paper	70	71	70
Plastic	1	1	1
Glass	5	4	4
Metal	1	1	1
Electrical goods and batteries	1	1	1
Food Waste	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Means of Disposal			
Secure disposal[2]	0	0	6
Landfill	19	19	24

	2006-07	2007-08	Percentage 2008-09
Recycled	81	81	76

[1] Not separately recorded

[2] All classified/confidential waste is shredded on site and therefore forms part of our recycled paper waste

DFID reports performance on waste as part of the Sustainable Development in Government process. DFID currently meets the two government targets on waste, namely to achieve a reduction of 5 per cent. relative to 2004/05 (DFID performance: 37.5 per cent. reduction) and to achieve at least 40 per cent. recycling by 2010-11 (DFID latest performance: 76 per cent.).

The latest assessment of government performance was published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on 19 December 2009 and is available on the OGC website at

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/
sustainability_programme_progress.asp

Developing Countries: Malaria

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of a safe, effective and affordable malaria vaccine. [311878]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports malaria vaccine development through the European and Developing Country Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). To date EDCTP has provided €20 million for malaria vaccine development, funding high quality clinical trials to accelerate the process of vaccine development. These trials are necessary to ensure that safe vaccines go beyond discovery and actually enter the market in developing countries.

DFID also supports the Advance Market Commitment (AMC). This funding mechanism, launched by the Prime Minister at the G8 summit, commits governments to fund agreed volumes of as yet unavailable vaccines, at an agreed price, if a product is successfully developed. The first AMC is funding the pneumococcal vaccine. The DFID White Paper, 'Eliminating World Poverty: Building our common future', makes a commitment to consider the funding of malaria vaccine as a possible future AMC.

Developing Countries: Schools

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to develop links between schools in the UK and in developing countries. [311877]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Global School Partnerships programme, implemented by the British Council. This facilitates active partnerships between schools in the UK and schools in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The programme aims to raise young people's awareness of global development issues and equip them with the skills and knowledge to become active global citizens. To date, 2,000 UK schools are involved in this programme.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1014W, on overseas aid, how much expenditure by Government departments qualified as official development assistance in the last financial year; and what percentage of such expenditure was undertaken by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Ministry of Defence and *(c)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [312347]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Official development assistance (ODA) is reported on a calendar year basis in line with definitions laid out by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). UK ODA totalled £6.4 billion in 2008. Of this total:

The Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £5.4 billion.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contributed £164 million.

£134 million in ODA was spent through the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) and Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF). Of this amount, £97 million was managed by the FCO and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), with the remainder managed by DFID.

The remaining amount was attributed to smaller contributions from other Government Departments, debt relief and net investments by CDC.

2009 ODA figures will be available in April. Further details of UK ODA is available through the OECD Development Assistance Creditor Reporting System database available at

www.oecd.org

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Sex Education

8. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on teaching about homosexuality in personal, social, health and economic education lessons in state-funded schools. [312585]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We expect schools to provide a broad programme of well planned and age appropriate sex and relationships education (SRE) through non statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. As part of this programme we expect secondary schools to teach about human sexuality and types of relationships that exist within society, including homosexual relationships.

Teacher Recruitment

16. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to recruit additional teachers of *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* science; and if he will make a statement. [312594]

Mr. Coaker: The Training and Development Agency for Schools has recruited beyond its targets for secondary mathematics and science trainees in 2009/10 for the first time by:

- advertising the benefits of teaching mathematics and science,
- running effective recruitment events,
- marketing to career changers through employers,
- providing subject knowledge enhancement courses for those whose degree subjects are not exactly what they plan to teach, and
- paying bursaries to trainees on £9,000 to Postgraduate Certificate of Education courses.

Adoptive Placements

18. **John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's estimate is of the number of children who returned to care after an adoptive placement in the latest period for which figures are available. [312597]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect information relating to the number of adoptive placements that breakdown or are disrupted. It is not possible to identify those children who have been returned to care from the data the Department collects from local authorities on looked after children in England.

Once the 'Adoption Research Initiative' is complete consideration will be given to the need for further adoption-related research, including research on placement breakdown.

National Challenge for Schools

19. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the national challenge for schools; and if he will make a statement. [312598]

Mr. Coaker: In 1997, approximately 1,600 schools did not reach the National Challenge benchmark of 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five good GCSEs including English and maths, but this number has fallen progressively to 640 in 2007 and 439 in 2008.

GCSE results in 2009 improved in National Challenge schools across the country. The number of schools below the benchmark has fallen further to just 247 this year.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools did not meet the national challenge benchmark in their GCSE results for 2009. [312601]

Mr. Coaker: GCSE results in 2009 improved in National Challenge schools across the country. The number of schools below the benchmark of 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five good GCSEs including English and maths has fallen to just 247 this year.

And we will continue to work hard in partnership with schools and local authorities to fulfil our ambition so that no school is below the benchmark by 2011.

Children's Centres

20. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made towards its objective of opening 3,500 children's centres by 2010. [312599]

Dawn Primarolo: We are on track to meet our target of at least 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres by March 2010. By the end of December 2009, there were 3,381 designated centres, providing access to services for over 2.7 million young children and their families.

Exclusion

21. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he next expects to meet representatives of teachers' unions to discuss policy on exclusions. [312600]

Mr. Coaker: Ministers have regular contact with school work force unions. I chair the Ministerial Stakeholders' Group on behaviour and attendance. This is a forum to discuss a wide range of behaviour issues, including exclusions when appropriate.

CAFCASS: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service's budget was in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what budget is planned for 2010-11; [307416]

(2) whether the Children and Families Courts Advisory and Support Service expects to overspend on its budget for 2009-10. [307661]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him and my hon. Friend the Member for Luton, North (Kelvin Hopkins) on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 970-971W. Since then, the Department has allocated CAFCASS an additional £400,000 to commission Family Contact Services in 2009-2010.

The exact level of CAFCASS's total funding for 2010-11 will be finalised in the context of discussions about CAFCASS's remit in 2010-11. The Department will continue to work closely with CAFCASS to monitor financial pressures.

Children: Homelessness

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to ensure that local authorities comply with the judgment of the House of Lords in the case of R (G) *v.* Southwark LBC [2009] UKHL 26; and if he will make a statement. [307948]

Dawn Primarolo: The House of Lords judgment in the case of R (G) *v.* Southwark [2009] UKHL 26 sets out how, under the Children Act 1989, local authorities should respond to the needs of homeless 16 to 17-year-olds. These responsibilities are not new and the judgment was in line with the Department's interpretation of the legislation and previous guidance issued to local authorities. However, following representations from local authorities, we intend in early 2010 to consult on further guidance to local authority children's and housing services about how they should implement their duties to assess and where necessary accommodate homeless 16 to 17-year-olds.

Ofsted assess children's services in local areas including inspecting services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection. For looked after children this includes inspecting the quality of risk management and decision-making in identifying which children need to be taken into care.

Children's Rights Director

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individual children's cases the Children's Rights Director's office considered in 2009. [310289]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 January 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In the past 12 months (to the end of December 2009), the Office of the Children's Rights Director considered 210 individual child cases.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Classroom Assistants: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent teaching assistants there were in schools in Stroud constituency in each year since 1997. [312745]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools in Stroud constituency in each January from 1997 to 2009.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools, years: January 1997 to 2009, coverage: Stroud constituency

January	*Number of teaching assistants*
1997	80
1998	80
1999	100
2000	100
2001	130
2002	140
2003	140
2004	130
2005	160
2006	150
2007	190
2008	170
2009	150

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300193]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has disposed of one of its current Headquarters buildings at Moorfoot in Sheffield, which was sold to the local authority during 2009-10 for £3 million; the book value was £3 million. The Department also intends to dispose of its freehold office building at Mowden Hall in Darlington during 2012-13 for an estimated value of £2.8 million; the book value is currently £2.8 million.

These two items are the only significant asset sales currently planned for the Department during the period 2009-10 and 2013-14.

The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

The sale of other less significant assets, such as furniture, IT equipment and motor vehicles, is unplanned and disposed of on an ad hoc basis when they reach the end of their useful economic life; either through obsolescence or fault.

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on bottled drinking water since 1 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [313288]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There has been nil expenditure on bottled water during this period due to the contract for the supply of bottled water being terminated in December 2008.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much expenditure his Department has incurred in respect of *(a)* air, *(b)* rail, *(c)* taxi and *(d)* car travel undertaken by each Minister in his Department since June 2007. [303139]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Since 1999, the Cabinet Office has published a list of ail overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. Information for the financial year 2008-09 was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Information regarding the cost of rail and taxis is not collected in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 918-19W which details the number of and cost to Departments of the provision of allocated cars and drivers by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to Ministers.

Free School Meals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each year cohort were eligible for free school meals in each year since 1997. [311425]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 18 November 2009]:* The available information on free school meals (FSM) is shown in the tables.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: School meal arrangements by national curriculum year group, England 2002-04

	2002			2003			2004		
National curriculum year	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*
Nursery classes	301,300	17,630	5.9	290,590	16,870	5.8	283,430	16,590	5.9
Reception	568,900	96,440	17.0	550,920	90,110	16.4	542,560	91,420	16.9
1	571,360	104,070	18.2	580,840	104,890	18.1	568,340	104,540	18.4
2	578,390	106,040	18.3	570,080	103,090	18.1	580,520	109,000	18.8
3	590,450	107,980	18.3	577,910	104,160	18.0	569,110	104,610	18.4
4	588,810	108,400	18.4	589,430	104,560	17.7	576,970	105,570	18.3
5	610,720	109,800	18.0	590,090	104,720	17.7	587,790	105,500	17.9
6	606,520	106,790	17.6	607,760	104,760	17.2	586,460	104,460	17.8
7	606,430	103,670	17.1	607,640	101,710	16.7	601,620	99,690	16.6
8	590,010	99,180	16.8	597,220	97,900	16.4	606,530	99,820	16.5
9	594,440	96,250	16.2	588,540	93,290	15.9	596,780	94,160	15.8
10	575,400	89,010	15.5	594,160	89,200	15.0	587,690	88,020	15.0
11	540,010	75,440	14.0	561,720	76,740	13.7	579,690	78,890	13.6
12	184,800	12,360	6.7	192,450	12,850	6.7	192,100	12,210	6.4
13	130,540	5,590	4.3	137,790	5,590	4.1	144,350	6,300	4.4
14	5,310	450	8.4	1,340	120	9.1	3,610	310	8.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[4] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons, e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, percentages rounded to one decimal place.

Source:
School Census.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: School meal arrangements by national curriculum year group, England 2005-07

	2005			2006			2007		
National curriculum year	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*
Nursery classes	279,400	15,840	5.7	278,170	0	5.0	283,150	13,630	4.8
Reception	525,390	87,590	16.7	522,710	81,950	15.7	522,650	82,050	15.7
1	564,280	101,910	18.1	544,510	93,800	17.2	533,830	91,300	17.1
2	565,920	102,660	18.1	560,360	96,470	17.2	545,200	94,570	17.3
3	579,700	105,610	18.2	564,900	96,250	17.0	558,900	94,950	17.0
4	569,170	101,800	17.9	579,550	99,230	17.1	564,610	94,840	16.8
5	575,540	101,440	17.6	568,460	95,010	16.7	578,830	96,540	16.7
6	587,640	101,120	17.2	575,100	94,920	16.5	567,820	92,360	16.3
7	580,010	94,960	16.4	578,810	95,100	16.4	565,650	90,830	16.1
8	600,440	96,220	16.0	580,120	90,850	15.7	578,570	88,700	15.3
9	603,100	93,440	15.5	599,390	89,140	14.9	579,160	85,450	14.8
10	595,790	87,750	14.7	601,930	84,570	14.0	598,740	81,960	13.7
11	575,360	77,210	13.4	584,730	75,190	12.9	591,280	73,870	12.5
12	198,910	12,790	6.4	204,410	12,440	6.1	212,200	12,740	6.0
13	151,130	6,830	4.5	152,600	6,430	4.2	152,960	6,430	4.2
14	2,620	240	9.1	2,240	290	13.1	2,840	370	13.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[4] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons, e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, percentages rounded to one decimal place.

Source:
School Census.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: School meal arrangements by national curriculum year group, England 2008-09

	2008			2009		
National curriculum year	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*	*Number of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM[4]*	*% of pupils eligible for FSM*
Nursery classes	285,840	13,330	4.7	289,070	13,170	4.6
Reception	543,260	81,870	15.1	559,410	88,980	15.9
1	529,720	88,620	16.7	549,710	94,330	17.2
2	535,060	90,810	17.0	530,840	92,650	17.5
3	543,420	92,220	17.0	533,210	92,800	17.4
4	558,160	92,260	16.5	542,780	93,560	17.2
5	563,640	91,640	16.3	557,070	92,550	16.6
6	577,950	92,930	16.1	562,880	91,600	16.3
7	558,300	88,970	15.9	567,600	93,600	16.5
8	565,990	85,700	15.1	558,520	86,190	15.4
9	577,670	82,810	14.3	565,450	82,720	14.6
10	579,360	79,110	13.7	577,830	78,720	13.6
11	588,210	71,840	12.2	569,440	71,140	12.5
12	216,660	12,640	5.8	225,560	13,420	5.9
13	158,900	6,340	4.0	163,440	6,730	4.1
14	2,850	380	13.2	2,650	310	11.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies.

[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[4] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons, e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, percentages rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

School Census.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 15 year olds entitled to free school meals achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics in each local authority in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [312442]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is given in Table 5 of the Statistical First Release 'GCSE Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2008/09' which was published on 15 December 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000900/index.shtml

Note:

These figures relate to all pupils at the end of key stage 4 rather than 15-year-olds.

Breaking the link between disadvantage and low attainment is a national priority. To ensure we meet this priority, Public Sector Agreement 11 (PSA) specifically focuses on narrowing the gap between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers. Local authorities must set statutory attainment targets, in line with PSA 11, that amongst other things, increases the proportion of children eligible for free school meals achieving five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics. The performance of local authorities to date in narrowing attainment gaps is variable, depending on many circumstances including the starting point of children in that authority. All LA targets will be reviewed to ensure they are ambitious but realistic.

Gifted Children: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils at schools in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency have been identified as gifted and talented since 2006. [312190]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect data about participation in gifted and talented programmes. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The tables below show the number and percentage of children identified as gifted and talented in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the January census between 2006, when the question was first asked, and 2009.

2006 records include Secondary G&T pupil data only. Otherwise, figures include Primary[1] and Secondary[1, 2] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: Number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils as at January each year in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Maintained primary schools		State funded secondary schools		Primary and secondary schools	
	Number of gifted and talented pupils	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*
2009	1,340	7.8	730	8.2	2060	8.2
2008	1,290	7.6	680	7.6	1970	7.6
2007	780	4.6	760	8.5	1540	6.0

Maintained primary[1] and state-funde[illegible]ondary[1, 2] schools: Number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils as at January each year in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Maintained primary schools		State funded secondary schools		Primary and secondary schools	
	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils
2006	—	—	900	10.1	900	10.1

[1] All data include middle schools as deemed.
[2] All data include City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] All data show solely registered pupils only.
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

A data table showing information for all constituencies in England has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Home Education

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the results of his consultation on home education registration and monitoring. [310788]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The response to the "Home Education: Registration and Monitoring Proposals" public consultation was published on 11 January 2010. It can be found on the Department's Consultation Unit's website on:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conResults&consultationId=1643&external=no&menu=3

Literacy: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects his Department to spend on giving free books to 11-year-olds in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [312466]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families expects to spend £2.7 million in 2010-11 delivering free books to 11-year-old children. This funds the Booked Up programme, delivered by the charity Booktrust, which offers a choice of book, from a selected list, to every child of this age. In the recent Pre-Budget Report, funding was agreed for specific areas of spending for the years 2011-13. We will be considering allocations of funding beyond those areas, including for Booktrust, within a full spending review due to take place later this year.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many pupils with a valid level of both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 the information in Table 6 of DCSF: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England 2008-09 is based. [304707]

Mr. Coaker: Pupils with a valid level at both key stage 1 and key stage 2 are included, excluding pupils who wee absent or disapplied from the key stage 1 assessments. Only pupils who have reached the end of key stage 2 in 2009 are included.

In table 6 of DCSF: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England 2008-09; 543,039 pupils are included in key stage 1 reading and writing results to key stage 2 English; 543,092 pupils are included in key stage 1 mathematics results to key stage 2 mathematics; 543,038 pupils are included in key stage 1 reading, writing and maths results to key stage 2 science; 543,120 pupils are included in key stage 1 reading results to key stage 2 reading and 543,086 pupils are included in key stage 1 writing results to key stage 2 writing.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget is of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [309716]

Dawn Primarolo: The allocated budget for the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) for 2009-10 is £2.03 million. This funding is to meet salary costs for staff in the unit as well as activities to support improvement in safeguarding standards and better, more consistent practice across the country, including the revision of the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children.

The costs of staff seconded to the NSDU from the Department of Health, Ministry of Justice and the Home Office are being met by their home Departments

The NSDU's budget for 2010-11 and 2011-12 has not yet been agreed.

Physical Education: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated for the encouragement of physical exercise for pupils in schools in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each of the last three years. [312189]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families funds school sport partnerships across the country to increase opportunities in physical education (PE) and sport for young people and to raise participation levels. The Department also funds specialist sports colleges to raise standards in PE and sport and to use their specialism to raise whole school standards. In each of the last three years, the Department has funded the following school sport partnerships and specialist sports colleges in, or near, the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency:

£

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Calthorpe School Sport Partnership	215,950	207,345	224,224	647,519
Golden Hillock School Sport Partnership	273,270	281,424	297,045	851,739
Ninestyles School Sport Partnership	277,781	290,070	299,738	867,589
Calthorpe Sports College	105,135	105,740	109,020	319,895
Golden Hillock Sports College	110,295	109,263	108,747	328,305
Total	982,431	993,842	1,038,774	3,015,047

Pupils: Absenteeism

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the unauthorised absence rate was for pupils in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [308459]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the following table.

To provide information for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3], percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence[4], 1996/97 to 2007/08[5]

	Lewes constituency	East Sussex
1996/97[6]	0.28	0.56
1999/2000	0.60	0.73
2003/04	0.64	0.95
2007/08	1.16	1.17

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology coleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] The number of sessions missed due to unauthorised absenceexpressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

[5] Figures prior to 2007/08 have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.

[6] East Sussex local authority area following local government reoganisation in April 1997.

Source:

Absence in Schools Survey and School Census[5].

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* authorised, *(b)* unauthorised and *(c)* persistent absence rate for (i) boys and (ii) girls at Key Stage 4 was in each year since 1997. [310558]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the table.

The first year for which information is available on absence rates by gender is 2005/06 and relates to secondary schools only. This was extended to primary and special schools in 2006/07.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3], absence rates and persistent absentee rates[4] for key stage 4[5] pupils 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08, England

	Boys			Girls		
	Authorised absence rate	unauthorised absence rate[6]	Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees[4, 7]	Authorised absence rate[6]	unauthorised absence rate[6]	Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent aisentees[4, 7]
2005/06[8]	7.1[illegible]	2.11	9.5	7.88	2.16	10.8
2006/07	6.7[illegible]	2.26	9.1	7.47	2.35	10.4
2007/08	6.1[illegible]	2.21	7.6	6.88	2.31	9.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. overall absence rate.

[5] Key stage 4 pupils are pupil enrolments with national curriculum year group 10 or 11.

[6] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

[7] The number of persistent absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with the same characteistics.

[8] 2005/06 pupil level data are available for secondary school pupils only.

Source:

School Census.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the recording in statistics on absenteeism those children who are receiving treatment, in hospital or at home, for illness or injury; and if he will make a statement. [310838]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* Where a child is absent from school due to illness or injury then their absence will be recorded in the school register as an authorised absence. It is good practice for schools to monitor and escalate any concerns about high levels of absence due to illness or injury.

Children with long term illnesses and other medical conditions may need additional support to continue their education, such as home tuition provided by the local authority or attendance at hospital schools. This should be tailored to suit the child's individual needs. Where such an education is provided schools can record those sessions as an approved educational activity and not as an absence.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were classified as persistent absentees in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2003; [312795]

(2) how many and what proportion of white British *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls who were eligible for free school meals were classified as persistent absentees in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2003. [312796]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not available. The first year for which information is available on persistent absence and on absence by pupil characteristics is 2005/06 and relates to secondary schools only. This was extended to primary and special schools in 2006/07.

Pupils: Attendance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether pupils who do not attend school because of *(a)* travel difficulties and *(b)* school closure in severe weather are classified as absent for the purposes of his Department's statistics. [311808]

Mr. Coaker: Where pupils are unable to attend school because of severe weather conditions their absence will be counted as an authorised absence. However, where pupils who rely on transport that is provided by the school or a local education authority to get to school are not able to do so because of severe weather conditions, then their absence is not counted in the statistics. Where a school is forced to close due to severe weather conditions the pupils' absence is not counted in the statistics.

Every lesson counts and it is right that schools should stay open during poor weather conditions where it is safe to do so. Those schools that remained open during the recent spell of poor weather should be commended for doing so.

It is for this reason that we are asking local authorities to ensure that schools are not penalised for remaining open during the recent snow and to make it clear that we expect authorities to take any increased absences due to the poor weather into consideration when looking at school absence figures—where the head teacher is able to provide suitable evidence.

The Pupil Registration Regulations 2006 are clear that where a school is open and pupils do not attend, their non-attendance has to be recorded whether it is due to the poor weather or for any other reason (e.g. illness, or being on holiday). While this will mean that those schools will have a higher absence rate than if they had been forced to close, head teachers should not take decisions about closing schools based on concerns about absence records. Their primary concern in such cases should be for the welfare of their pupils and staff.

The Department are currently looking at ways that absences due to exceptional circumstances, such as the recent poor weather conditions, can be reported and monitored within the school absence data. However, we will not be able to do this for the recent snow.

Pupils: Epilepsy

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on local health services training for school staff in the administration of emergency medication for pupils with epilepsy; [312673]

(2) whether his review of Managing Medicines in School is considering improvements to advice for the management of children with epilepsy when they have seizures at school. [312676]

Dawn Primarolo: Discussions between both Departments have resulted in the Child Health Strategy and the Healthy Child Programme and a joint commitment to update and reissue guidance on Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings.

We would expect schools and local Primary Care Trusts to work together to arrange training that is appropriate to the needs of the pupils and the staff involved.

The revised guidance aims to offer schools and settings appropriate advice and information to supplement the necessary training and support from other agencies. The guidance will include clear statements of those involved in supporting pupils with medical conditions, including schools and primary care trusts. Our intention is to publish the new guidance in spring 2010 which will be supported by an awareness-raising campaign for schools.

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with epilepsy there are in mainstream schools. [312674]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect this information.

Schools: ICT

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much local authorities spent on IT procurement for schools in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [311880]

Mr. Coaker: The Department funds schools for technology purposes by the Harnessing Technology Grant.

Funding allocation to local authorities

Financial year	*£ million*
2009-10	201

However the Harnessing Technology Grant will not be the total that local authorities spend on IT as schools are also free to use money from other sources on technological services and infrastructure. This figure will also exclude the national Home Access programme which is not administered by local authorities.

Schools: Snow and Ice

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have closed owing to adverse weather conditions in *(a)* Leicester, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* England in January 2010 to date; and how many pupils in each location have not been able to sit exams as a result. [312225]

Mr. Coaker: There is no duty on local authorities or schools to report closures to the Department, so the Department does not collect this information. No definitive data are available on the number of students missing exams as a result of the weather, though we believe that the number missing exams because of school closure was very small. More information will be available after exams have been completed next month, though it will not be possible to be certain about the numbers of students missing exams because of the weather rather than for other reasons; nor will it be possible to provide a geographical breakdown of the student numbers.

Secondary Schools: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average staff to pupil ratio is in secondary schools in *(a)* York and *(b)* England. [312887]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the pupil to adult ratio in local authority maintained secondary schools in York local authority and England in January 2009. This is the latest information available.

Pupil:adult ratio in local authority maintained secondary schools, January 2009, York local authority and England

	Pupil:adult ratio
York	11.0
England	10.7

Notes:
1. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
2. The pupil to adult ratio is calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.

Source:
School Census.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [311988]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2000 the Government have transformed education and child care with improved outcomes for children and young people. Figures showing the improvement in performance at Key Stage 2 and at GCSE and equivalents in Slough are given in the following tables:

Key stage 2 results of 11-year-old pupils attending schools in the Slough constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining level 4 and above	*2000*	*2009*[1]	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Slough: English[2]	75	79	4
Slough: maths[2]	72	75	3
Slough: science[2]	86	86	—
England: English[3]	75	80	5
England: maths[3]	72	79	7
England: science[3]	85	88	3

[1] Revised data.
[2] Pupils attending schools in Slough constituency.
[3] The average for all schools in England.

GCSE and equivalents[1] results for pupils[2] attending schools in the Slough constituency

Percentage of pupils gaining	*2000*	*2009*[3]	*Percentage point improvement 2000-09*
Slough: 5+ A* - C	51.4	75.0	23.6
Slough: 5+ A* - G	91.3	97.8	6.5
England average: 5+ A* - C	49.2	70.0	20.8
England average: 5+ A* - G	88.9	92.3	3.4

Percentage of pupils gaining	*2005*	*2009*[3]	*Percentage point improvement 2005-09*
Slough: 5+A*- C including English and mathematics	45.5	50	4.5
England average: 5+A*- C including English and mathematics	49.8	60.3	10.5

[1] From 2004 results incorporate GCSEs, GNVQs and a range of other qualifications approved pre-16. Prior to 2004 results are based on GCSEs and GNVQs only.
[2] From 2006 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to 2006 results are based on pupils aged 15.
[3] Revised data.

Further information by constituency is provided within the Department's 'In Your Area' website available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

Information available at constituency level includes the number of specialist schools, number of operational academies, number of teaching assistants and other support staff, number of teachers and pupil:teacher ratios. Where information is not available at constituency level it has been provided at local authority level.

Additional information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: Income

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the income of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust *(a)* is in 2009-10 and *(b)* is expected to be in 2010-11 from (i) central Government grants, (ii) subscriptions from schools, (iii) private sector donations and (iv) other sources; and if he will make a statement. [307594]

Mr. Coaker: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) is an independent registered charity which receives income from a variety of sources. My Department is not responsible for monitoring income derived from sources other than the Department. The grant committed by the Department to SSAT in 2009-10 is £15,419,982. SSAT is also free to bid for contracts advertised by the Department, and £20,692,700 is due to be paid in 2009-10 under contracts won by SSAT in open competition. We are not in a position to estimate SSAT's income from these sources in 2010-11 as grants are negotiated annually and SSAT may bid on the same basis as other organisations for any contract advertised by the Department on the open market.

SSAT's audited accounts are published and available from the Charity Commission and Companies House.

Vetting: Local Education Authorities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1106W, on schools: vetting, whether local authorities will be compensated under the new burdens principle for the cost of registering councillors and council officers under the vetting and barring scheme. [309546]

Dawn Primarolo: No; there are no new burdens costs. When ISA-registration becomes mandatory in November 2010 for people starting new posts in regulated activity, payment of the £64 registration fee will be the responsibility of the applicant, although employers may choose to pay on their behalf. The fee, which includes the cost of a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure, is payable just once in respect of working with children or vulnerable adults or both vulnerable groups. The applicant will then be registered for life if they so wish, unless they are barred from working with the vulnerable groups. The vetting and barring scheme will monitor continuously any information from the police, employers or other sources about registered persons, and the Independent Safeguarding Authority will bar them from working with children or vulnerable adults if they do anything that harms or poses a risk of harm to the vulnerable groups.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged between 16 and 18 have *(a)* been given and *(b)* breached an antisocial behaviour order in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last three years. [312204]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued, collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. A further breakdown could be ascertained only by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Data on breaches of ASBOs collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice and held on the Court Proceedings Database only count those occasions where the breach was proven in court to have occurred. These data are not compiled below CJS area level.

Antisocial Behaviour: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated to initiatives to tackle antisocial behaviour in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each year since 2005. [311566]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since 2004-05, as with all other Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), London borough of Bexley as well as each CDRP with Greater London was allocated £25,000 a year as a contribution towards funding an ASB Co-ordinator Post. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. This pooled budget supported the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs). As of 2008-09 Home Office funding for local authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour now form part of the general Area Based Grant (ABG) paid by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

This funding has been renewed for the period 2008-11 and it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including tackling antisocial behaviour.

In addition, on 13 October 2009 the Home Secretary announced assistance to 62 priority areas where public perceptions of antisocial behaviour are highest. As London borough of Bexley is a priority area it receives support as well as funding to provide additions services to victims and witnesses of ASB. Another 17 areas in Greater London are also priority areas. In 2009-10, priority areas in Greater London, including London borough of Bexley received £268,000 and £400,000 to be allocated in 2010-11.

There is also wider funding which contributes towards the wider cross-Government strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour, including an additional £10 million announced on 20 November 2009 by the Department for Communities and Local Government to 130 local authorities to support the fight against antisocial behaviour. In addition, the Government are committed to diverting young people from crime and antisocial behaviour as demonstrated by our investment in universal services such as Sure Start Children's Centres, parenting support and positive activities as well as targeted work through the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP).

Arrests: Passports and Fireworks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been arrested for offences connected to forgery of passports in each year since 1997; [312759]

(2) how many people have been arrested for an offence connected with setting off fireworks in each year since 1997. [312769]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The offence of forgery of passports and setting off fireworks is not a notifiable offence and does not form part of this collection.

Asylum: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1529W, on asylum: housing, how much funding was given to each of the 18 suppliers in each of the last three years; and how many asylum seeker households were housed by each supplier in each of those years. [311728]

Mr. Woolas: The funding given to each of the 18 suppliers and number of households accommodated in the last three financial years is in the following tables. The figures have been taken from internal management information and the figures for provider spend have not been specifically audited independently. Financial figures have been rounded to one decimal point and numbers of households to the nearest 10. Household figures are only available as 'snapshots' and the table details the numbers on 31 March for each respective financial year. Populations decrease and increase during the course of any year.

Accommodation cost 2006-09

Supplier	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million* *2008-09*
Angel Group	11.9	28.2	31.3
Astonbrook	8.1	16.6	3.3
Cardiff City Council	1.8	4.3	4.8
Clearsprings	12.7	22.7	27.2
North West Consortium	6.1	9.1	8.0
West Midlands Consortium	7.2	9.9	6.7
Y and H Consortium	15.8	20.8	20.5
Glasgow City Council	13.7	16.8	11.1
Happy Homes UK Limited	3.0	9.3	15.6
Jomast	—	—	1.6
Kimberly Group	3.7	6.1	4.4
Liverpool City Council	1.0	3.6	6.1
NE Consortium	14.3	11.5	11.1
N. Ireland Housing Executive	—	—	1.2
Nottingham City Council	3.2	5.7	5.7
Priority Properties NW Ltd.	9.0	20.5	26.8
Refugee HA Ltd.	2.2	3.5	3.1
Swansea City Council	1.2	1.1	0.6
United Property Management	15.4	28.9	37.6
YMCA Glasgow	1.8	4.2	4.2

Households accommodated on 31 March

Supplier	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Number* *2008-09*
Angel Group	1,780	3,270	2,430
Astonbrook	1,430	1,520	—
Cardiff City Council	300	370	560
Clearsprings	1,450	1,840	2,530
North West Consortium	670	590	740
West Midlands Consortium	660	460	420
Y and H Consortium	1,780	1,590	2,030
Glasgow City Council	1,210	570	1,050
Happy Homes UK Limited	570	1,920	1,860
Jomast	—	—	750
Kimberly Group	480	730	—
Liverpool City Council	120	210	290
NE Consortium	720	990	1060
N. Ireland Housing Executive	80	100	170
Nottingham City Council	390	540	580
Priority Properties NW' Ltd.	1,980	3,410	4,310
Refugee HA Ltd	260	330	290
Swansea City Council	110	60	60
United Property Management	2,320	3,40	5,460
YMCA Glasgow	240	210	300

Accommodation cost 2006 to 2009

Supplier	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million* *2008-09*
Angel Group	11.9	28.2	31.3
Aston brook	8.1	16.6	3.3
Cardiff City Council	1.8	4.3	4.8
Clearsprings	12.7	22.7	27.2
North West Consortium	6.1	9.1	8.0
West Midlands Consortium	7.2	9.9	6.7
Y and H Consortium	15.8	20.8	20.5
Glasgow City Council	13.7	16.8	11.1
Happy Homes UK Limited	3.0	9.3	15.6
Jomast	—	—	1.6
Kimberly Group	3.7	6.1	4.4

Accommodation cost 2006 to 2009

£ million

Supplier	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Liverpool City Council	1.0	3.6	6.1
NE Consortium	14.3	11.5	11.1
N. Ireland Housing Executive	—	—	1.2
Nottingham City Council	3.2	5.7	5.7
Priority Properties NW Ltd.	9.0	20.5	26.8
Refugee HA Ltd	2.2	3.5	3.1
Swansea City Council	1.2	1.1	0.6
United Property Management	15.4	28.9	37.6
YMCA Glasgow	1.8	4.2	4.2

Households accommodated on 31 March

Number

Supplier	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Angel Group	1,780	3,270	2,430
Aston [illegible]	1,430	1,520	—
Cardiff City Council	300	370	560
Clearsprings	1,450	1,840	2,530
North West Consortium	670	590	740
West Midlands Consortium	660	460	420
Y and H Consortium	1,780	1,590	2,030
Glasgow City Council	1,210	570	1,050
Happy Homes UK Limited	570	1,920	1,860
Jomast	—	—	750
Kimberly Group	480	730	—
Liverpool City Council	120	210	290
NE Consortium	720	990	1060
N. Ireland Housing Executive	80	100	170
Nottingham City Council	390	540	580
Priority Properties NW Ltd.	1,980	3,410	4,310
Refugee HA Ltd.	260	330	290
Swansea City Council	110	60	60
United Property Management	2,320	3,540	5,460
YMCA Glasgow	240	210	300

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1529W, on asylum: housing, what the policy is of *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* its suppliers on housing asylum seekers in vacant (i) council and (ii) housing association housing. [311729]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency contracts with public and private sector organisation for the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers. It only pays for these services, on a per person per day basis, when accommodation is actually occupied and it is the responsibility of the suppliers to provide suitable accommodation. The UK Border Agency does not stipulate that vacant council housing or housing association dwelling should be used for asylum seekers. How public sector providers use their available housing stock is a matter for them.

British Crime Survey: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people in North Wales was reported by the British Crime Survey as very worried about *(a)* theft from a car, *(b)* burglary and *(c)* physical attack in each of the last three years. [311716]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Estimates for the proportion of people in North Wales with high levels of worry about car crime, burglary and violent crime in 2006-07 and 2007-08 appear in the table.

Following a change to the 2008-09 British Crime Survey questionnaire the sample size is no longer sufficiently large to produce robust estimates for these measures at police force area level.

Worry about crime 2006-07 to 2008-09 BCS for North Wales police force area

	High level of worry about burglary[1]			*High level of worry about car crime*[2]			*High level of worry about violent crime*[3]		
	%	*Statistically significant change, on previous year*	*Unweighted base*	*%*	*Statistically significant change, on previous year*	*Unweighted base*	*%*	*Statistically significant change, on previous year*	*Unweighted base*
2008-09[4]	—	—	n/a	—	—	n/a	—	—	n/a

Worry about crime 2006-07 to 2008-09 BCS for North Wales police force area

	High level of worry about burglary[1]			High level of worry about car crime[2]			High level of worry about violent crime[3]		
	%	Statistically significant change, on previous year	Unweighted base	%	Statistically significant change, on previous year	Unweighted base	%	Statistically significant change, on previous year	Unweighted base
2007-08	11	—	1,067	11	—	871	13	—	955
2006-07	12	—	998	9	—	788	13	—	903

[1] Measure for worry about burglary is the percentage of respondents who say they are 'very worried' about having their home broken into and something stolen.
[2] Measure for worry about car crime is based on two questions on worry about 'having your car stolen' and 'having things stolen from your car'.
[3] Measure for worry about violent crime is based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault.
[4] Sample sizes for 2008-09 BCS are not of sufficient size to produce robust estimates at the level of PFA.

Burglary: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of burglary were recorded in Birmingham in each year since 2005. [312779]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is for the Birmingham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and is given in the following table:

Offences of burglary recorded by the police in Birmingham, 2005-06 to 2008-09

Number

	Burglary in a dwelling	Burglary other	Total burglary
2005-06	8,509	6,727	15,236
2006-07	7,952	6,616	14,568
2007-08	7,701	5,857	13,558
2008-09	7,231	5,082	12,313

Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* the Tackling Knives Action Programme and *(b)* the Tackling Gangs Action Programme for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [311138]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In March 2009 the Home Office committed £5 million to Phase II of the Tackling Knives and Serious Youth Violence Action Programme (TKAP) for 2009-10, to address serious youth violence within the 13-24 age range. Further funding of £2 million has been made available since then. No announcement has been made on plans for 2010-11.

The Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP) was a six-month intensive programme of work launched in September 2007, which ended in March 2008. No funding was therefore provided to TGAP during the periods stipulated in the question.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* 10 police forces and *(b)* basic command units recorded the (i) largest reductions in crime and disorder rates in the last 10 years and (ii) lowest overall crime rates in the latest period for which figures are available. [311752]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002-03 data for years prior to that are not directly comparable.

Table 1 gives the 10 police force areas with the highest decreases in total recorded crime between 2002-03 and 2008-09.

Table 2 gives the 10 Basic Command Units with the highest comparable decreases over the same period. Many forces have re-organised their Basic Command Units over time which means that comparisons for those BCUs affected are not possible.

Table 3 gives the 10 police forces with the lowest overall crime rate per 1,000 population in 2008-09. Table 4 gives the 10 lowest rates at Basic Command Unit level.

Table 1: 10 police forces with the largest percentage decrease in total recorded crime between 2002-03 and 2008-09

Police force area	Percentage decrease
Northumbria	-36.4
West Midlands	-35.0
West Yorkshire	-32.7
Humberside	-32.3
Norfolk	-31.0
North Wales	-29.1
Nottinghamshire	-28.6
Derbyshire	-28.6
Merseyside	-27.8
North Yorkshire	-27.8

Table 2: 10 Basic Command Units with the largest comparable percentage decrease in total recorded crime between 2002-03 and 2008-09

Basic Command Unit	Percentage decrease
Gatwick airport	-51.4
Kingston upon Hull	-41.4
South Tyneside	-40.7
Heathrow airport	-39.7
West Midlands D1	-39.3
West Midlands F1	-39.1
West Midlands D2	-38.8
Wirral	-38.4
West Midlands J1	-37.3
West Midlands E2	-36.9

Table 3: 10 police forces with the lowest rates per 1,000 population for total recorded crime—2008-09

Police force area	Rate per 1,000 population
Dyfed-Powys	48
Norfolk	58
Surrey	59
North Yorkshire	62
Devon and Cornwall	62
Cumbria	62
Wiltshire	65

Table 3: 10 police forces with the lowest rates per 1,000 population for total recorded crime—2008-09

Police force area	*Rate per 1,000 population*
West Mercia	65
Suffolk	66
Essex	67

Table 4: 10 Basic Command Units with the lowest rates per 1,000 population for total recorded crime—2008-09

Basic Command Unit	*Rate per 1,000 population*
Ceredigion	39
North Yorkshire Western	45
Powys	46
Essex Central	49
Carmarthenshire	50
Pembrokeshire	51
Wiltshire County	52
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	53
Northumberland	53
Buxton	53
West Kent	53

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on crime awareness campaigns in universities in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [312091]

Alan Johnson: The amount spent on crime awareness campaigns in universities in England and Wales in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	Spend (£)
2005-06	26,300.00
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	0
2009-10	[1]78,905.50

[1] To date.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* muggings and *(b)* snatch thefts of mobile telephones were recorded in (i) London and (ii) England and Wales in each year since 1998-99. [312092]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not centrally available from the Home Office as muggings is a popular rather than legal term and aggregate returns from police forces are based on criminal offences. The aggregate returns also do not include details of items stolen.

Crime: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving the use of a knife were recorded by police in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last three years. [312192]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office collects data on knife and sharp instrument offences via a special additional data collection. Data are collected at force level only so data are not available for Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many recorded incidents of robbery there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last three years; [312193]

(2) how many incidents of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs by 16 to 24 year olds there were in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each of the last three years. [312195]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information for Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency is not collected centrally.

Data are provided for Birmingham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

In 2008-09, data were collected separately for the following offence codes:

4.4—causing death by dangerous driving;

4.6—causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs; and

4.8—causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving.

Data are provided for all of these offence codes to enable comparisons with previous years when data are only available as a combined total.

Additionally, data on offences of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs cannot be broken down by age of suspect, so data provided are for the total of these offences recorded in Birmingham CDRP.

The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and the number of offences and rates per 1,000 population are given in the following table.

Selected offences recorded by Birmingham CDRP and rate per 1,000 population, 2006-07 to 2008-09

		2006-07		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
Offence code	*Offence description*	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
34A	Robbery of business property	356	0.36	334	0.33	382	0.38
34B	Robbery of personal property	4,679	4.67	3,579	3.56	3,540	3.50
	Total robbery offences	5,035	5.03	3,913	3.89	3,922	3.88
4.4/6/8	Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (inc. under influence of drink/drugs)[1]	11	0.01	9	0.01	—	—
4.4	Causing death by dangerous driving[1]	—	—	—	—	4	0.00

Selected offences recorded by Birmingham CDRP and rate per 1,000 population, 2006-07 to 2008-09

		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
Offence code	*Offence description*	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
4.6	Causing death by careless driving under [illegible]nce of drink or [illegible]	—	—	—	—	1	0.00
4.8	Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving[1]	—	—	—	—	0	0.00

[1] Data for offence codes 4.4, 4.6 and 4.8 are not available separately prior to 2008-09.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last three years. [312194]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Recorded crime data are not available for the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency. The available information relates to the Birmingham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area and is given in the following table.

Offences recorded by the police in Birmingham and rate per 1,000 population—2006-07 to 2008-09

	Number of offences	*Rate per 1,000 population*
2006-07	119,361	12
2007-08	103,527	10
2008-09	95,889	9

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the level of recorded crime was in Birmingham in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [312777]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available in the form requested. Data for total recorded crime for the Birmingham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area are only available from 2000-01 when 153,705 offences were recorded. There were 95,889 offences recorded in the Birmingham CDRP in 2008-09. Data for these two years are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002.

Crime: Houghton-le-Spring

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in *(a)* overall recorded crime, *(b)* recorded violent crime, *(c)* burglary and *(d)* vehicle thefts in Houghton and Washington East constituency has been between 2000 and the most recent date for which figures are available. [313190]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available centrally for the Houghton and Washington, East constituency. The available information relates to the Sunderland Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area. However, because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, data for 2000-01 and 2008-09 are not directly comparable. Percentage changes between 2002-03 and 2008-09 for the requested offences have been given in the following table:

Percentage change in selected offences recorded by the police in Sunderland, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	Percentage change between 2002-03 and 2008-09
Total recorded crime	-39
Violence against the person	-28
Burglary	-54
Vehicle thefts[1]	-58

[1] Includes theft of or from a vehicle.

Crimes of Violence: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders received a police caution for grievous bodily harm in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each year since 2007. [312205]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of offenders cautioned for offences relating to 'grievous bodily harm' in the West Midlands police force area, 2007 (latest available data from the Ministry of Justice) can be viewed in the following table.

Cautions data cannot be broken down beyond police force area, therefore data for the West Midlands police force area have been provided.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of offenders cautioned for offences relating to 'grievous bodily harm', West Midlands police force area, 2007[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	*Statute*	*Number*
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, (inflicting bodily injury with or without weapon)	Offences against the Person Act 1861, section 20	11

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308830]

Mr. Woolas: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has allocated to spend on maintaining its Flickr channel in 2009-10. [312843]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not have a Flickr channel.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has allocated to maintenance of its Twitter feed in 2009-10. [312844]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not have a Twitter feed at present and we have no plans to do so.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people work on his Department's social media and networking sites; and at what cost in 2009-10. [312845]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has a channel on the YouTube video sharing website.

One member of staff spends approximately one day per month in administering the site.

Departmental Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months. [312761]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office issued 1,249 press releases in 2009 to local and national media outlets.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the latest estimate is of the level of failure demand in each call centre run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies. [312176]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not routinely recorded at present and could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

DNA: Databases

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of recorded crimes of each type were detected using DNA profiles from the national DNA database in the latest period for which figures are available. [310120]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The number and proportion of recorded crimes of each type detected in which a DNA match was available in 2008-09 is shown in Table 1. The figures held do not include crimes detected as a result of one-off speculative searches of the NDNAD or from comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory. One-off speculative searches and DNA profile comparisons are used mainly in the investigation of serious crimes such as murder and rape. Therefore the figures provided in Table 1 will under-represent the overall contribution of DNA matches to the detection of serious crimes such as murder and rape.

It is important to note that detections are achieved through integrated criminal investigation, not through DNA alone. The source of the figures provided is the forensic performance data, which are collected from police forces by the Home Office.

Table 1 shows:

the number and types of crimes detected for which a DNA match was available.

additional detections, where an offender admits further offences following a detection for which a DNA match was available.

the total of these two types of detections (labelled 'DNA-related') as a proportion of recorded crime and as a proportion of sanction detections (the sanction detection rate in 2008-09 for total recorded crime was 28 per cent.).

The table shows that 17 per cent. of all detected domestic burglaries, 20 per cent. of all detected other burglaries (burglaries other than a dwelling e.g. commercial premises, garden sheds, etc.) and 10 per cent. of all detected thefts of vehicle were 'DNA-related'.

It should also be noted that most recorded crimes do not have any forensic opportunities (for example, minor assault, drugs offences, theft, fraud etc.). In 2008-09, only a small proportion of recorded crimes had a crime scene examination (17 per cent.); and only 39,795 crimes yielded DNA crime scene samples of sufficient quantity and quality for profiling and loading to the NDNAD.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

DNA-related detections 2008-09

Police forensic data—crime categories	*Detections of crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')*	*Additional detections arising from the DNA match*	*Total DNA-related detections ('DNA detections' and additional detections)*	*Recorded crime 2008-09*	*Total force detections 2008-09*	*Total DNA-related detections as proportion of recorded crime (percentage)*	*Total DNA-related detections as proportion of total force detections (percentage)*
All other recorded crime	1,506	1,616	3,122	1,315,079	368,595	0.2	0.8
Criminal damage	2,886	896	3,782	936,729	131,442	0.4	2.9

DNA-related detections 2008-09

Police forensic data—crime categories	*Detections of crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')*	*Additional detections arising from the DNA match*	*Total DNA-related detections ('DNA detections' and additional detections)*	*Recorded crime 2008-09*	*Total force detections 2008-09*	*Total DNA-related detections as proportion of recorded crime (percentage)*	*Total DNA-related detections as proportion of total force detections (percentage)*
Domestic burglary	3,702	4,015	7,717	284,445	46,500	2.7	16.6
Drugs offences	397	179	576	242,907	230,962	0.2	0.2
"Homicide"[1]	70	4	74	11,248	4,583	0.7	1.6
Other burglary	3,830	2,571	6,401	296,952	31,371	2.2	20.4
Other sex offences	106	34	140	38,355	12,760	0.4	1.1
Other violent offences	861	168	1,029	892,745	422,224	0.1	0.2
Rape	168	1	169	13,133	3,411	1.3	5.0
Robbery	603	148	751	80,104	16,816	0.9	4.5
Theft from vehicle	2,036	3,655	5,691	444,647	42,642	1.3	13.3
Theft of vehicle	1,298	1,165	2,463	147,470	24,471	1.7	10.1
Unknown	144	150	294	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total of 12 crime types	17,607	14,602	32,209	4,703,814	1,335,777	0.68	2.41

[1] The forensic data "homicide" crime category covers the following recorded crime categories:

Murder, Manslaughter, Infanticide—648
Attempted murder—575
Intentional destruction of viable unborn child—8
Threat or conspiracy to murder—9,559
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking etc.—31
Causing death by dangerous, careless or inconsiderate driving—427
Total 'Homicide' crimes in 2008-09—11,248

Notes:

1. A 'DNA detection' means that the crime was cleared up and a DNA match was available.
2. 'Additional detections arising from the DNA match' occur when, for example, a suspect, on being presented with DNA evidence linking him to one offence, confesses to further offences. They arise from a crime with a DNA match; and are therefore detections where a DNA match played a part in solving the crime.
3. Total 'DNA-related detections' means 'DNA detections' plus 'additional detections arising from the DNA match'.

Driving Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each region were convicted of *(a)* a motoring offence that resulted in a fatality and *(b)* careless driving in 2008. [312319]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Ministry of Justice advise that court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Public Service Agreement 25 on drug-related offending, referred to on page 15 of his Department's Autumn Performance Report 2009, what data were used to establish the baseline measure of 260.1 proven offences per 100 offenders; how many offences of each type were defined as drug-related; and what the size was of the offender cohort. [311868]

Alan Johnson: The baseline for PSA 25 indicator 3 (rate of drug-related offending) was established using data from the Drug Interventions Management Information System (DIMIS), the Police National Computer (PNC) and the Offender Assessment System (OASys). This is a proxy measure for drug-related offending, which monitors the rate of proven offending by those identified as class A drug misusers in the course of their contact with the criminal justice system.

The baseline (2008) cohort, identified during the period January to end March 2008, comprised 20,934 individuals identified as (class A) drug misusers. The number of offences committed by this group within 12 months following identification and proven by court conviction was 54,462 proven offences, giving a baseline rate of 260.1 per 100 offenders or 2.6 offences per offender.

The measure includes all offence types committed by known drug misusers where a conviction at court has been recorded on the PNC. Cautions, other pre-court disposals and offences taken into consideration are not counted.

Drugs: Police Cautions

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders received a police caution for the possession of drugs in each year since 2006. [312202]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of offenders cautioned for possession of a controlled drug, and possession with intent to supply, in England and Wales for 2006 and 2007 (latest available from the Ministry of Justice) is given in the following table.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of offenders cautioned for possession of a controlled drug, England and Wales, 2006-07[1, 2]

	Possession of a controlled drug	*Possession with intent to supply*
2006	34,715	841
2007	39,667	762

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Emergency Services: Crimes of Violence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks on *(a)* police, *(b)* fire and *(c)* ambulance services responding to 999 calls were recorded in each police force area in each of the last three years. [312090]

Alan Johnson: The information requested cannot be provided as data on attacks on police, fire and ambulance services responding to 999 calls are collected by local forces and not reported to the Home Office.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those granted visas to study in the UK in the last three years subsequently did not complete their courses. [311856]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges were approved by the UK Border Agency between December 2008 and December 2009. [311857]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 December 2008 and 31 December 2009 the UK Border Agency approved 1,625 colleges to be admitted to the Register of Sponsors for tier 4 of the points based system.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were issued from the beginning of December 2008 to December 2009; and how many such visas were issued to students from *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan and *(c)* Bangladesh. [311861]

Mr. Woolas: The total numbers of student visas issued globally, and to applicants from *(a)* India *(b)* Pakistan and *(c)* Bangladesh, in the period December 2008 to September 2009, are shown in the following tables. Sub-totals of student visas issued before and after the introduction of Points Based System Tier 4 (Students) on 31 March 2009 are also shown. Visa statistics for the last quarter of 2009 will be published on 25 February.

Student visas—Global

Endorsement category	*Total*
PBS Tier 4	180,778
Student (pre-PBS Tier 4)	67,558
Grand total	248,336

Student visas

Endorsement category	*Bangladesh*	*India*	*Pakistan*	*Grand total*
PBS Tier 4	8,527	33,742	5,152	47,421
Student (pre-PBS Tier 4)	2,073	11,566	3,291	16,930
Grand total	10,600	45,308	8,443	64,351

Note:

1. Statistics shown are from December 2008 to September 2009.
2. PBS Tier 4 started on 31 March 2009.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations his Department has received in the last 12 months on the issue of a two-year visa for a person to visit a spouse studying in the UK where the marriage has ended before the expiry of the visa. [311865]

Mr. Woolas: Information about spouses of non-European economic area nationals studying in the UK, who may have entered as a visitor and whose marriage has ended before the expiry of their visa is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spouses and partners of persons who have been admitted on student visas may apply to join them as a Dependent under tier 4 of the points based system. Successful applicants will be given limited leave to enter in line with the student.

Alternatively, they may apply for entry as a visitor in which case leave to enter would be limited to a maximum period of six months. Although regular travellers may apply for a visit visa with a validity of one, two or five years, any visit during that period must still not exceed six months.

Where a person has been admitted as the dependent spouse of a student, and the marriage subsequently ends while their leave to enter is still valid, the basis for their claim to be admitted would no longer exist and their leave to enter would stand to be curtailed.

A person with a spouse in the UK who has been admitted as a visitor will be expected to leave before the expiry of their visa, irrespective of whether or not the marriage is subsisting.

Exclusion Orders: Overseas Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what subjects at what level had been taught to foreign national students who have been deported from the UK on grounds of national security since 2001. [311504]

Mr. Woolas: None of the persons deported on national security grounds since 2001 have been foreign national students.

Fixed Penalties: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty fines *(a)* have been issued and *(b)* remain outstanding or not paid in

(i) West Chelmsford constituency and (ii) Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last five years. [312486]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on fixed penalty notices and penalty notices for disorder are not broken down below police force area level.

Information on the different types of fixed penalty notices in Essex police force area can be found as follows.

Fixed penalties data for motoring offences for 2007 (latest available) can be found in Chapter 3 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales 2007-08". Data on penalty notices for disorder offences for 2007 (latest available) can be found in Chapter 7 of the Ministry of Justice Publication "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 2007".

Both bulletins referred to are available in the Library of the House.

Identity and Passport Service: Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had registered an interest in identity cards and the National Identity Service on the Identity and Passport Service website on the latest date for which figures are available. [312043]

Alan Johnson: As of 18 January 2010 there had been 16,384 registrations on the website.

Identity and Passport Service: Legal Costs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1388W, on departmental legal costs, what the reasons are for the costs incurred by the Identity and Passport Service in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [311740]

Alan Johnson: The principal expenditure incurred in regard to external legal costs by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) for financial year 2007-08 were attributable to advice and support provided in respect of the development, tendering and award of the IPS's Strategic Supplier Framework agreement.

For financial year 2008-09 the principal expenditure incurred in regard to external legal costs were associated with the advice and support provided in respect of the award of contracts for the delivery of the National Identity Service and next generation passport design and production.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 145W, on identity cards, what proportion of the 2,400 applicants have been enrolled in the scheme. [312101]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 20 January 2010]:* Since 20 October, and up to and including 16 January, over 3,700 applicants have been enrolled or have made an enrolment appointment for an identity card.

Identity Cards: Children

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether children who apply for a national identity card will have their fingerprints taken. [312173]

Meg Hillier: The Identity Cards Act 2006 sets the minimum age for the issue of fingerprint biometric identity cards at 16.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who are not required to have an identity card have applied for a voluntary national identity card. [312175]

Meg Hillier: On 30 June 2009, I announced in a written ministerial statement that the introduction of identity cards for all British citizens will be voluntary, including those issued to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports.

Since 20 October 2009, up to and including 18 January 2010, over 3,800 applicants have been enrolled or have made an appointment to enrol for an identity card.

National Identity Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are recorded on the National Identity Register. [312171]

Meg Hillier: Since 20 October 2009, and up to and including 18 January 2010, over 2,700 applicants have applied and been issued with an identity card.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to Lord Stoddart of Swindon of 14 October 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 26-7WA, on the National Identity Register, how many fingerprints *(a)* per person and *(b)* in total he expects to be stored on the National Identity Register from 2012. [312440]

Meg Hillier: From 2012, it is intended that 10 fingerprints will be recorded as part of a person's application for a passport, or an identity card or both. Where an individual is unable to record a full set of 10 fingerprints (e.g. due to an amputation), they will be able to register as many fingerprints as it is possible for them to record.

Between 2012 and 2022, every adult applying for a British passport would be offered the choice of being issued with a passport or an identity card, or both documents and their identity details and biometrics would be recorded on a single national identity register. The National Identity Service will be designed so that all adults resident in the UK will be able to apply for one or both of these products if they wish to do so. At present, approximately 80 per cent. of the adult population who are British apply for a passport over a 10 year period.

National Identity Scheme Commissioner: Manpower

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work for the Office of the Identity Commissioner. [311994]

Meg Hillier: The Identity Commissioner has five members of staff. He also uses a specialist adviser to provide support when necessary.

Police

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police warrant cards have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each year since 1997. [312770]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police civilian staff there were in Greater Manchester in (i) 1997, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; and how many police community support officers there were in Greater Manchester in (A) 2008 and (B) 2009; [312209]

(2) how many police officers there were in Greater Manchester in each of the last 10 years. [312210]

Mr. Hanson: The requested data are published annually in the Home Office Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin. Recent editions are available on the Home Office website and all past editions from the Library of the House.

The requested data are provided in the tables for the hon. Member's convenience.

Police workforce strength (FTE)[1] in Greater Manchester by police force as at 31 March in the given years

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[3]	2004[3]	2005[3]	2006[3]	2007[3]	2008[3]	2009[3]
Officers[2]	6,922	6,949	6,810	6,795	6,909	7,217	7,343	8,042	8,041	7,959	7,887	7,931	8,124

Police workforce strength (FTE)[1] in Greater Manchester by police force as at 31 March in the given years

	1997	2,008	2,009
Staff[3,4]	2,612	3,534	3,861
PCSO[5,6]	—	773	782

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[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Comparable strength is provided for officers (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

[3] Civilian Staff have been referred to as Police Staff since March 2003. Figures exclude Traffic Wardens, Police Community Support Officers and Designated Officers (s.38).

[4] Staff strength figures for 2003 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

[5] Full-time equivalent figures for PCSOs include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[6] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Expenditure

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the *(a)* largest, *(b)* smallest and *(c)* average expenditure was on a Serious and Organised Crime Agency operation in each year since the Agency was established; and if he will make a statement; [312813]

(2) how much and what proportion of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency's budget was spent on operations in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [312814]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Operations undertaken by the Serious Organised Crime Agency vary considerably in terms of their nature, resource requirements and length. Many operations run for several years. SOCA does not 'cost' each operation. SOCA aims to apportion its operational effort against the main threats which are causing harm to the UK. These apportionments are set out in SOCA's annual plan for 2009-10.

Theft: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what crime rates were reported for *(a)* vehicle-related theft and *(b)* burglary in a dwelling in North Wales in each of the last three years. [311717]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Estimates of crime rates for the offence groups of vehicle-related thefts and burglaries in a dwelling are not available for North Wales from the British Crime Survey (BCS) as the size of the BCS sample is not sufficient to provide robust estimates for individual offence groups at police force area level.

The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and rates for North Wales are given in the following table.

Rates per 1,000 population/household for selected offences recorded by the police in North Wales

	Vehicle-related theft[1]	Burglary in a dwelling	
	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 households
2006-07	6.4	1.8	4.2
2007-08	4.9	1.7	4.1
2008-09	5.3	2.2	4.9

[1] Includes theft of or from a vehicle.

Vauxhall

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310330]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 1997. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. The available statistical information therefore relates to the London borough of Lambeth.

In terms of police recorded crime in Lambeth, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 35 per cent. More specifically

Violence against the person—down 14 per cent.

Sexual offences—down 20 per cent.

Robbery—down 46 per cent.

Burglary—down 39 per cent.

Offences against vehicles—down 56 per cent.

Other theft offences—down 38 per cent.

Criminal damage—down 43 per cent.

Drug offences—up 33 per cent.

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at borough level are available prior to 1998-99.

Lambeth operational command unit had 1,010 police officers as at 30 September 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 174 since 2001. Comparisons with 1997 for Lambeth are not available. There were 170 police community support officers as at 30 September 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP). The CDRP has brought new ways of working in a cross-cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

The CDRP paved the way for the Safer Neighbourhoods initiatives where there is now a dedicated police resource in each of the 21 wards in Lambeth, which were not in place in 1997.

Lambeth's CDRP and wider partnership approach has been recognised as good practice and overall crime levels continue to reduce: there was a reduction in the seven consecutive years up to 2009.

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Lambeth adopted a DPPO for Bishops Ward in Vauxhall in 2005 and a borough-wide controlled drinking zone is now in operation.

In 1997, there were 40 CCTV cameras in Lambeth and since then two main schemes have been developed increasing CCTV to 966 cameras. The town centre scheme which has 133 cameras and 833 in housing estates and there are additionally Transport for London cameras.

The south bank within the Vauxhall ward has been awarded £1.2 million for 'target hardening' activities (e.g. hydraulic bollards).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Genetically Modified Organisms: Nature Conservation

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has evaluated on the effects on mammalian health of genetically-modified products. [311871]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Since September 2007, the Food Standards Agency has sought advice from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) on the conclusions which may be drawn from the following published research on the effects on mammalian health of genetically modified organisms (GMOs):

1. Malatesta et al., (2008), Histochem Cell Biol, 130, pp967-977
2. Kilic and Akay, (2008), Food and Chemical Toxicology, 46, pp1164-1170
3. Finamore et al., (2008), J Agric Food Chem. DOI: 10.1021/jf802059w
4. Lelimirov et al., (2008), Forschungsberichte der Sektion IV, Band 3/2008, published by the Austrian Ministry of Health

The ACNFP considered these publications at its meetings in September and November 2008 and February 2009. It advised that it was not possible to draw any conclusions about cause and effect in these publications or to assess the significance of these reports for mammalian (including human) health. The minutes of these meetings are available on the ACNFP website at:

www.acnfp.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet08/acnfpmeet20nov08/acnfpmin20nov08

www.acnfp.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet09/acnfpfeb09/acnfpmin190209

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the fee accompanying a planning application for a wind turbine development is allocated to the local authority responsible for the initial assessment; and if he will make a statement. [312563]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

Wind turbines can currently be considered through the Electricity Act 1989, Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Transport and Works Act 1992. Planning application fees for wind turbines considered under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 will go to the relevant local planning authority that receives the application. From 1 March applications for onshore wind turbines generating more than 50 Megawatts will be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission under the Planning Act 2008.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Complaints

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number and percentage of charities which do not have established complaints procedures in the latest year for which figures are available. [312340]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Charity Commission to reply:

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated January 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the number and percentage of charities which do not have established complaints procedures in the latest year for which figures are available (312340).

The Commission does not hold this information on charities centrally and there is no requirement for them to report to us regularly on it. However, in 2005 we conducted a survey, the results of which were published in our report, "Cause for Complaint? How charities manage complaints about their services". This found that, of the 1,129 charities surveyed, 69% of charities did not have a complaints procedure. The figure ranged from 38% among very large charities (those with an annual income of over £1 million) to 86% among small charities (those with an income of £10,000 or less). Further details are below.

Does your organisation have a complaints procedure?

					Percentage
	Total	*Small*	*Medium*	*Large*	*Very large*
Yes	30	12	38	59	62
No	69	86	61	40	38
No answer	1	2	1	1	—

We commissioned a postal survey of a random sample of 3,000 registered charities, weighted across four income bands. The postal survey achieved a 38% response rate, which is high for surveys of this nature. In total, 1,129 completed forms were returned for analysis. This allows a confidence interval exceeding +/- 3%, which is industry standard. The full publication can be viewed on the Charity Commission website:

www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/rs11annexs.asp

We certainly encourage charities to establish complaints procedures as a matter of good practice, but have not repeated this piece of research. I have arranged for a copy of the report to be placed in the Library of the House.

I hope this is helpful.

Charities: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what funding her Department has provided to charities to tackle socio-economic disadvantage and promote social inclusion in the last 12 months. [312288]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) provides significant funding to third sector organisations including charities as part of a three-year £515 million programme. While this money is not ring-fenced specifically for social inclusion or combating socio-economic disadvantage, it does recognise the sector's role in strengthening communities and empowering citizens, including those vulnerable to social exclusion.

In 2009-10 the Office responded to assist the work of charities and other third sector organisations through the recession, through a comprehensive package of support including:

The £15.5 million targeted Support Fund grants to help third sector organisations tackle the impact of the recession in our communities.

The £16.5 million Modernisation Fund to help charities and social enterprises maximise their effectiveness during the downturn.

The £17.5 million Hardship Fund to enable third sector organisations in England facing immediate financial hardship due to the recession to deliver their front-line services.

The budget for the Office of the Third Sector is published in the Main Estimates and updated in the Winter and Spring Supplementary Estimates each year. Expenditure data across OTS programmes in 2009-10 will be available in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts expected to be published before summer recess.

Civil Servants: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which executive agencies are not deemed to be part of the civil service for the purposes of civil service headcounts. [312180]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, which executive agencies are not deemed to be part of the Civil Service for the purposes of Civil Service headcounts. I am replying in his absence. (312180)

ONS estimates of Civil Service employment count all home Civil Service employees. Civil Service employees can be classified to central government or public corporations. Home Civil Service estimates exclude the Northern Ireland Civil Service and other Crown servants.

Forest Enterprise England and Forest Research are not deemed to be part of the Civil Service for the purposes of Civil Service headcounts as they are not considered to be part of the home Civil Service.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is also not deemed to be part of the Civil Service for the purposes of Civil Service headcounts as it is part of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Civil Servants: Personnel Management

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the written ministerial statement of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 57WS, on Report to Parliament on Civil Service Delegations/ Authorisations, what the details of each delegation or authorisation were; and what the purpose was of each. [312377]

Angela E. Smith: The Civil Service Management Code is available in its entirety at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/csmc/index.aspx

The details of each delegation referred to in the ministerial statement of 24 June 2009 are as listed in the introduction to the Management Code; specifically in paragraph 3 of that introduction.

Delegations permit Departments and agencies, subject to any central conditions attached to those delegations, to set and be responsible for rules governing the terms and conditions of service of civil servants, according to the organisation's circumstances and operational needs.

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance her Department has produced for other departments on re-employing former civil servants as *(a)* fee-paid staff, *(b)* contractors, *(c)* agency staff and *(d)* consultants. [312291]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office does not issue guidance on re-employing former civil servants as fee paid staff, contractors, agency staff and consultants as these are the subject of Departments' own policies.

Civil Servants: Surveys

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on civil servants: pay, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey dataset, redacting identifiable personal data. [312461]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, with reference to the Answer of 20 July 2009, Official Report, column 1035W, on Civil Servants: pay, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey dataset, redacting identifiable personal data. I am replying in his absence. (312461).

It is not usual practice for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to place individual data records in the Library. Most ONS datasets are available for statistical research only, through dedicated archives and under licence or research contract agreements. Generating a suitably redacted database for public use would both incur disproportionate cost and render the capacity for research to be very low. As such, ONS will not place a copy of the ACSES dataset in the Library.

It is the responsibility of ONS to protect data. Once they are publicly released a motivated intruder could use private data sources to attempt to identify individuals, and learn something about them such as salary or their disability status. This could lay ONS open to legal action, as well as bringing the office into disrepute.

If a Member of Parliament requires specific analyses they are able to commission them from ONS. An alternative is to use an approved researcher to undertake analyses on their behalf using microdata held in the ONS' Virtual Microdata Laboratory.

Death: Obesity

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many obesity-related deaths there have been in each year since 1997. [312801]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the written statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 34WS, on the departmental expenditure limit 2009-10, what the timetable is for the creation of the new Public Appointments website; and what additional features and information will be provided by the website. [312259]

Tessa Jowell: The new public appointments website was launched on 1 November 2009. The site provides, in one place, details of vacancies on the boards of public bodies and signposts new information on public appointments and the public appointments process. In line with the Government's commitment to an open and transparent appointments process, the new site has been designed to increase the visibility and accessibility of information on public appointments. The site can be viewed via:

www.direct.gov.uk/publicappointments

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since 1 May 2008. [313015]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has not sponsored any primary legislation enacted since 1 May 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1254W, on departmental manpower, what the job title was of each of the 200 staff working in No. 10 Downing Street on 1 April 2009. [312301]

Angela E. Smith: Details of key officials in the Prime Minister's Office can be found in "Vacher's Quarterly" and "Dod's Civil Service Companion". Copies can be found in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much her Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years; [312424]

(2) how much has been spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in respect of (i) No. 10 Downing Street and (ii) the Office of the Leader of the House in each of the last three years. [312523]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons are integral parts of the Cabinet Office. Expenditure by the Cabinet Office on new furnishings in the past three years can be provided only at disproportionate cost. No expenditure has been incurred by the Cabinet Office on new works of art or new vehicles from 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Departmental Reprography

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the yearly running costs, excluding value added tax and including service fees and rental costs, of a photocopier in her Department were in the latest year for which information is available. [312182]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office no longer uses photocopiers in the Department. Multi-function devices (MFDs) which provide printing, photocopying and scanning functions in a single machine are deployed on our corporate IT network as part of our overall IT service contract. The yearly cost, which includes supply, service, repair and replacement, for each of the three types of MFD available is:

(1) Fully serviced A4 paper size only monochrome MFD - £1,333.32 per annum

(2) Fully serviced A4 and A3 paper size monochrome MFD - £2,542.68 per annum

(3) Fully serviced A4 and A3 paper size colour-capable MFD - £3,488.64 per annum

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of her Office's most recent organisational chart. [312286]

Angela E. Smith: I will place a copy of the Cabinet Office's most recent organisational chart in the Library.

Disclosure of Information: Home Office

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department plans to respond to the parts of the Review of the lessons learned from the Metropolitan Police Service's investigation of Home Office leaks by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary that relate to it. [312357]

Tessa Jowell: As I said in my answer on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 267, the lessons of the O'Connor and Johnston reports will be applied in full.

We have already released "Official Information: standards of conduct and procedures" which includes the adoption of the Chief Inspector's protocol for future consideration of police involvement in leak investigations. We are assessing our leak investigation capabilities and the internal guidance on the detailed handling of leak investigations is currently under review.

Electorate

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the difference was between the size of the electorate in each parliamentary constituency in 1997 and *(a)* the date of dissolution of the 2001-05 Parliament for each constituency in Scotland and *(b)* the most recent date for which figures are available for each constituency in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. [313285]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Employment: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people are employed in the *(a)* service sector and *(b)* financial sector in Portsmouth; and how many people are employed in (i) commerce and (ii) manufacturing in each industry sector in (A) Portsmouth South constituency and (B) Portsmouth. [313076]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people are employed in (a) the service sector and (b) the financial sector in Portsmouth; and how many people are employed in (i) commerce in each industry sector and (ii) manufacturing in each industry sector in (A) Portsmouth South constituency and (B) Portsmouth. I am replying in his absence. (313076)

Annual statistics on the number of employees are available from the ONS release, the Annual Business Inquiry. These figures detail the number of employees and exclude self employed. An estimate of jobs is not available at the detailed regional level requested. The latest period for which figures are available is 2008.

Table 1 provides the information available on the number of employees in the manufacturing sector for Portsmouth South constituency and Portsmouth in 2008. Table 2 provides the number of employees in the service sector for Portsmouth South constituency and Portsmouth. There is no class for commerce in the Standard Industrial Classification therefore ONS has provided information for sections in the service sector.

Table 1: Number of employees in the manufacturing sector for Portsmouth and Portsmouth South Constituency, 2008

	Industry	*Portsmouth South Constituency*	*Portsmouth*
10	Manufacture of food products	[1]—	[1]—
11	Manufacture of beverages	[1]—	[1]—
12	Manufacture of tobacco products	0	0
13	Manufacture of textiles	[1]—	[1]—
14	Manufacture of wearing apparel	[1]—	[1]—
15	Manufacture of leather and related products	[1]—	[1]—
16	Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	[1]—	[1]—
17	Manufacture of paper and paper products	[1]—	[1]—
18	Printing and reproduction of recorded media	[1]—	300
19	Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	[1]—	[1]—
20	Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	[1]—	[1]—
21	Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations	0	0
22	Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	[1]—	700
23	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	[1]—	[1]—
24	Manufacture of basic metals		[1]—
25	Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	[1]—	1,300
26	Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	[1]—	900
27	Manufacture of electrical equipment	[1]—	[1]—
28	Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	[1]—	[1]—

Table 1: Number of employees in the manufacturing sector for Portsmouth and Portsmouth South Constituency, 2008

	Industry	*Portsmouth South Constituency*	*Portsmouth*
29	Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	[1]—	[1]—
30	Manufacture of other transport equipment	[1]—	[1]—
31	Manufacture of furniture	[1]—	[1]—
32	Other manufacturing	[1]—	100
33	Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	[1]—	[1]—
C	Total Manufacturing	3,600	9,600

[1] Figures have been suppressed to prevent disclosure

Source:
Annual Business Inquiry

Table 2: Number of employees in the service sector for Portsmouth and Portsmouth South Constituency, 2008

	Industry	*Portsmouth South Constituency*	*Portsmouth*
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	8,100	15,400
H	Transportation and storage	2,300	3,700
I	Accommodation and food service activities	5,000	8,000
J	Information and communication	1,200	5,600
K	Financial and insurance activities	700	2,400
L	Real estate activities	500	900
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	1,200	3,300
N	Administrative and support service activities	4,100	8,100
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	7,000	9,700
P	Education	5,600	9,000
Q	Human health and social work activities	7,400	15,000
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	2,300	3,000
S	Other service activities	1,100	1,700
	Total Service Sector	46,400	85,700

Source:
Annual Business Inquiry

Government Departments: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 411W, on disclosure of information, if she will place in the Library a copy of the current edition of the document, "Handling unauthorised disclosures", redacting information which could harm national security. [312438]

Tessa Jowell: Copies of "Official Information: standards of conduct and procedures" have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Detailed internal guidance on the conduct of the investigation of leaks and procedures for use by Government Departments is also held. There are no plans for this to be published with or without redactions. Publishing details of working methods and investigative techniques would compromise the effective conduct of investigations in future.

Government Departments: ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on information and communication technology across central Government in the latest year for which information is available. [312262]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Details of ICT expenditure across central Government are not held centrally; however estimates are contained in the Operational Efficiency Programme published in Budget 2009.

The Operational Efficiency Programme can be accessed via the following link:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/oep_collaborative_procurement_pu731.pdf

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been spent on information and communications technology across central Government since 1997-98. [312282]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Details of central Government ICT expenditure since 1997-98 are not held centrally. However, data on the IT expenditure since 2006 for those parts of the public sector represented on the Chief Information Officers' Council can be found in the Transformational Governments Annual Reports using the following link.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/transformational_government.aspx

Government Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the Central Office of Information's White Book produced for the second half of 2009. [312279]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 19 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [312279] asking for a copy of the most recent edition of The White Book.

A copy of The White Book published in September 2009 will be placed in the library of the House.

Government Departments: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many layers of line management there are in her Department; and what estimate she has made of the average number of layers of line management in each Government Department. [312353]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 756W.

Information concerning the number of layers of line management in each Government Department is published on the Office for National Statistics website. The table will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Health: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* mortality rate for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer was in Torbay constituency in each of the last 10 years. [312399]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) diagnosis and (b) mortality rate for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer was in Torbay constituency in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in his absence. (312399)

Figures on newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of chronic lung disease and coronary heart disease are not readily available. Mortality and incidence rates for parliamentary constituencies which do not share boundaries exactly with a local authority can be calculated only from 2001 onwards. The tables below provide (a) the age standardised cancer incidence rate and (b) age standardised mortality rates for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer in Torbay parliamentary constituency for the years 2001 to 2007 (the latest available).

Parliamentary constituency population estimates on which these rates are based are experimental statistics, that is, statistics which are in a testing or consultation phase, and therefore should be treated with caution.

Table 1: Age-standardised cancer incidence rates,[1,2] Torbay parliamentary constituency,[3] 2001 to 2007[4,5]

	Cases per 100,000
	Number
2001	382
2002	364
2003	351
2004	384
2005	407
2006	422
2007	362

[1] Age-standardised cancer registration rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cancer incidence defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44: non-melanoma skin cancer.

[3] Based on boundaries and postcode allocation, as of 2009.

[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

[5] Parliamentary constituency population estimates used to calculate the incidence rates are experimental statistics.

Table 2: Age standardised mortality rates for chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease and cancer,[1,2] Torbay parliamentary constituency,[3] 2001 to 2007[4]

	Deaths per 100,000		
	Chronic lung disease	Chronic heart disease	Cancer
2001	27	117	191
2002	20	93	197
2003	26	119	174
2004	23	94	155
2005	27	97	173
2006	26	79	161
2007	27	81	171

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death was defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J40-J47 for chronic lung disease, I20-I25 for coronary heart disease and C00-C97 for cancer.

[3] Based on boundaries and postcode allocation, as of 2009.

[4] Parliamentary constituency population estimates used to calculate the incidence rates are experimental statistics.

Intelligence Services: ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the Scope IT project; how much was paid to IBM in respect of the project; and how much is planned to be spent on the replacement for the project; [312356]

(2) whether her Department plans to undertake legal action to recover losses from the Scope IT project. [312294]

Tessa Jowell: There is nothing further to add my written ministerial statement on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 41WS.

It is not practice to publish the costs of intelligence-related programmes. They are subject to scrutiny by the Intelligence and Security Committee, whose reports are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Job Creation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate *(a)* the Office of National Statistics and *(b)* the UK Statistics Authority has made of the number of net additional jobs created by the Government's stimulus initiatives. [312296]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate (a) the Office of National Statistics and (b) the UK Statistics Authority has made of the number of net additional jobs created by the Government's stimulus initiatives. I am replying in his absence. (312296)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority with responsibility for the production of statistics. To date, the ONS has not made an estimate of the number of net additional jobs created by the Government's stimulus initiatives.

Life Expectancy: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each constituency in Devon and Cornwall geographical region (i) is and (ii) was in (A) 1999, (B) 1989 and (C) 1979. [312398]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy for (a) men and (b) women in each constituency in Devon and Cornwall geographical region (i) is and (ii) was in (A) 1999, (B) 1989 and (C) 1979. I am replying in his absence. (312398)

Period life expectancies at birth for (a) males and (b) females for all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2006-08, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Life expectancy figures at parliamentary constituency level are not readily available.

Ministers: Meetings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her Department's timetable is for the publication online of information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. [312263]

Tessa Jowell: The information for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready.

National Security

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment she has made of energy and climate change-related threats to national security. [310502]

Tessa Jowell: The first annual update to the National Security Strategy, published in June 2009, identified both competition for energy, and climate change, as important factors that contribute to shaping threats to the UK's national security.

In the case of competition for energy, the strategy sets out a number of likely trends in terms of increasing global energy consumption, increasing scarcity of resource, and concentration of those resources in areas that are: (a) harder to find, reach or access, and (b) in areas of environmental sensitivity and/or political instability.

Climate change can act as a driver of insecurity, internationally through exacerbation of existing social, economic and political sources of tension, and domestically through increased frequency of extreme weather events. In this context, the Government have also begun work on the first UK Climate Change Risk Assessment; as the National Security Strategy states, national security risks will be considered as part of this broader work, and will inform the National Risk Register.

Non-departmental Public Bodies: Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much was spent from the public purse on executive non-departmental public bodies in 2008-09; [312359]

(2) how much has been spent from the public purse on advisory non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1996-97. [312360]

Tessa Jowell: Information on total Government funding of executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is published annually in the Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Information for the 2008-09 financial year will be published shortly. Information on total Government funding of advisory NDPBs is included in departmental reports.

Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median full-time wage for (i) private sector and (ii) public sector employees was in (A) 1997 and (B) the most recent period for which figures are available. [312358]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) mean and (b) median full-time wage for (i) private sector and (ii) public sector employees was in (A) 1997 and (B) the most recent period for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (312358)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The public and private sector breakdown is based on the Inter-Departmental Business Register legal status.

I attach a table showing the mean and median gross weekly earnings for all full-time employees in the public and private sectors for 1997 and 2009.

Mean and median weekly pay—gross for full-time employee jobs[1]: United Kingdom 1997 and 2009

(£)

	1997		2009	
	Mean	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
Public	373	349	605	539
Private	373	309	581	465

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence. As at April of each year.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average percentage rise in salary has been for *(a)* members of the academic staff in further education colleges, *(b)* teachers in secondary schools, *(c)* public sector employees and *(d)* private sector employees in cash terms in the last three years. [312886]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average percentage rise in salary has been for *(a)* members of the academic staff in further education colleges, *(b)* teachers in secondary schools, *(c)* public sector employees and *(d)* private sector employees in cash terms in the last three years. I am replying in his absence. (312886)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. ASHE estimates by occupation are based on the Standard Occupation Classification 2000. The public and private sector breakdown is based on the Inter-Departmental Business Register legal status.

I attach a table showing the percentage rise in median gross annual earnings for all full-time employees for each of the above occupations and sectors in the last three years.

Annual percentage rise in median gross annual earnings for full-time employee jobs[1], United Kingdom, 2007 to 2009

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Further education teaching professionals[2]	5.3	2.8	2.6
Secondary education teaching professionals[2]	2.0	3.0	2.6
Public sector	3.3	3.9	3.8
Private sector	2.9	4.9	1.9

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than a year.
[2] Standard Occupation Classification 2000.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each local authority area earn more than £100,000 per annum. [313101]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Private Sector: Productivity

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what measures the Office for National Statistics uses of private sector productivity; and what estimate has been made of the change in private sector productivity since 1997 or the closest period of time for which figures are available. [312283]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what measures the Office for National Statistics uses of private sector productivity; and what estimate has been made of the change in private sector productivity since 1997 or the closest period of time for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (312283)

Quarterly productivity statistics are available from the ONS release on Productivity at: www.statistics.gov.uk. Productivity estimates are not available for the private sector but experimental statistics are produced for the Market Sector. The market sector includes almost all market activity and excludes most non-market activity, in particular that of general government. The measurement includes public corporations. Market Sector estimates are produced on an output per worker basis from 1991 onwards and an output per hour basis from 1999 onwards. Table 1 contains the latest statistics available for market sector productivity.

Table 1: Market sector productivity quarter on same quarter a year ago growth (experimental)

Period	*Output per worker*	*Output per hour*
1997		
Q1	1.5	—
Q2	1.2	—
Q3	1.5	—
Q4	2.6	—
1998		
Q1	3.1	—
Q2	3.8	—
Q3	3.6	—
Q4	3.0	—
1999		
Q1	2.4	—
Q2	2.5	—
Q3	2.9	—
Q4	3.0	—
2000		
Q1	3.6	—
Q2	3.7	4.4
Q3	3.0	4.0
Q4	2.7	3.0
2001		
Q1	2.6	1.7
Q2	1.5	1.0
Q3	1.7	1.2
Q4	1.0	2.1
2002		
Q1	0.9	1.7
Q2	0.9	3.0
Q3	1.3	2.3
Q4	1.6	2.5
2003		
Q1	1.3	2.4
Q2	2.1	2.0
Q3	2.0	2.8
Q4	3.1	3.9
2004		
Q1	3.1	3.4
Q2	3.4	4.0
Q3	2.6	3.2
Q4	2.0	1.0

Table 1: Market sector productivity quarter on same quarter a year ago growth (experimental)

Period	*Output per worker*	*Output per hour*
2005		
Q1	1.4	0.7
Q2	1.4	1.7
Q3	1.6	1.2
Q4	2.2	2.3
2006		
Q1	2.8	3.2
Q2	20	18
Q3	2.0	2.5
Q4	1.7	2.2
2007		
Q1	2.5	2.3
Q2	2.5	1.9
Q3	2.7	2.5
Q4	1.7	2.6
2008		
Q1	1.0	0.7
Q2	0.4	1.7
Q3	-0.5	-0.3
Q4	-2.5	-2.2
2009		
Q1	-5.6	-3.0
Q2	-5.1	4.5
Q3	-4.6	-3.2

Public Sector: Productivity

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what measures the Office for National Statistics uses of public sector productivity; and what estimate has been made of the change in public sector productivity since 1997 or for the closest period for which figures are available. [312265]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what measures the Office for National Statistics uses of public sector productivity; and what estimate has been made of the change in public sector productivity since 1997 or for the closest period for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (312265)

Public sector productivity growth estimates are available from the ONS Public Service Productivity articles at www.statistics.gov.uk These are experimental statistics. They include all services funded by the public sector whether or not they are produced by the public sector. Hence the concept of output is gross output, not value added. Public sector productivity growth estimates are produced on a multi-factor basis; the concept of input includes intermediate consumption, capital and labour. Table 1 contains the latest statistics available for public sector productivity.

Table 1: Total public service ouput, input and productivity estimate, 1997 to 2007, United Kingdom, per cent. change from 1997

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Mean*
Volume of Output	0.0	1.6	3.7	7.4	10.8	15.8	20.7	25.1	28.5	31.9	33.6	2.9
Volume of Input	0.0	1.4	4.1	8.9	12.0	18.7	25.5	30.5	34.6	37.0	38.0	3.3
Productivity	0.0	0.2	-0.4	-1.4	-1.1	-2.4	-3.8	-4.1	-4.5	-3.7	-3.2	-0.3

Public Services Forum Task Group

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what dates the Public Services Forum task group on the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting has met in the last 12 months; and what the membership of the group is. [312278]

Tessa Jowell: The Public Services Forum Task Group on the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting has not met in the last 12 months having formally wound up following publication of the Joint Statement on 15 July 2008.

Third Sector: Codes of Practice

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the National Code of Governance for the Voluntary and Community Sectors; and if she will make a statement. [312341]

Angela E. Smith: Good Governance: A Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector was produced in 2005, through the Governance Hub, funded by Capacitybuilders. A review of the code in 2008 found that the code was welcomed by the sector. 42 per cent. of respondents had used it. The Charity Commission encourages all charities to use it, as a practical and easy-to-use guide to help develop good practice. The Commission recently consulted on updating the core principles in the code.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on advertising apprenticeship schemes and services in each of the last five years. [304162]

Kevin Brennan: The National Apprenticeship Service, and formerly the Learning and Skills Council, are responsible for promoting apprenticeships to employers and young people. I have asked Geoff Russell, chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 22 January 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 304162 that asked: "how much has been spent on advertising apprenticeship schemes and services in each of the last five years"

Figures spent on production and placement of advertising on Apprenticeships in the last five years are below:

2005/06: £31,672

2006/07: £5,088

2007/08: £1,299,962

2008/09: £5,013,015

2009/10: £1,600,000 has been budgeted to be spent.

Total for the five years: £7.95m

The higher levels of spend in 2008/09 were a result of the first television advertising of Apprenticeships taking place since 2004. The advertising prompted over 14,000 employers to contact the NAS about taking on apprentices.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of people starting apprenticeship schemes have been from an ethnic minority background since 1997; [310872]

(2) what proportion of people starting apprenticeship schemes in each year since 1997 were *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [310877]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Supplementary table 6.1 shows apprenticeship starts (number and percentage) by gender and ethnic group. This table includes data for 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable information is available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people have dropped out of apprenticeships in each year since 1997; [310874]

(2) how many people started but did not complete an apprenticeship in each year since 1997. [310875]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the status of all learners participating on an apprenticeship in each academic year from 2008/09 back to 2003/04, the earliest year for which we have comparable information.

Table 1: Status of all apprentices participating in the academic year

Apprenticeship status	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Total apprenticeship participants	400,400	411,200	403,000	388,000	418,900	444,800
Of which:						
Continuing to subsequent year	221,900	233,400	207,800	197,300	218,700	215,800
Achieved in year[1]	55,100	80,100	108,400	119,200	122,600	159,800
Did not achieve/withdrew in year	120,100	90,900	78,000	61,100	62,300	62,400
Transferred	3,200	6,900	8,800	10,300	15,300	6,700

[1] 'Achieved in Year' figures includes some learners that only achieved the national vocational qualification component of their apprenticeship framework. For this reason, achievement figures are higher than those published for framework achievements in the BIS Statistical First Release at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09/

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and may not sum to totals.
2. Figures represent participation on apprenticeship frameworks. This includes starts in the academic year, and the continuation of frameworks from earlier years.
3. For earlier years, it is not possible to separate out those learners that withdrew from those learners did not achieve.

Source:

WBL/ERILR

The above information looks at all apprentices participating in a given academic year, regardless of when they started their apprenticeship. This is different from how the apprenticeship completion rate is calculated. The completion rate is based on a cohort of learners, and measures the proportion of those learners that successfully achieve. The apprenticeship completion rate has improved significantly in recent years, increasing from 37 per cent. in 2004/05 to a record 71 per cent. in 2008/09.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people aged *(a)* between 16 and 18, *(b)* 18 and 25 and *(c)* over 25 years old started an advanced apprenticeship in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; [311779]

(2) how many adults started a Level 2 apprenticeship in each year since 1997; [312058]

(3) how many adults started an advanced apprenticeship in each year since 1997. [312057]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts by level and age is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in which industry sectors have apprenticeships been created under the National Apprenticeship Service. [312810]

Mr. McFadden: Since April 2009 eight new or revised apprenticeship frameworks have been created in the industry sectors, listed as follows. Employers and other bodies within the industry, working with sector skills councils (SSCs), develop and publish apprenticeship frameworks.

Apprenticeship framework	*Industry sector*
Paper and Board Manufacture	Construction Planning and the Built Environment
Logistics Operations Management	Retail and Commercial Enterprise
Providing Security Services	Health, Public Services and Care
Security Systems	Health, Public Services and Care
Horticulture	Agriculture, Horticulture, and Animal Care
Fashion and Textiles	Retail and Commercial Enterprise
Facilities Management	Retail and Commercial Enterprise
Laboratory Technicians	Health, Public Services and Care

Apprentices: Costs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost to the public purse of a fully-funded apprenticeship was in the last period for which figures are available. [311780]

Kevin Brennan: This Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families allocate funding to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of apprenticeships in England. Planned investment for 16 to 18 and adult apprenticeships for 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years is given in the following table.

		£000
	Financial year	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
16 to 18 Apprenticeships	695,000	780,000
Adult (aged 19 and over) Apprenticeships	389,914	398,410

Sources:
1. Adult apprenticeships—BIS Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, November 2009
2. 16 to 19 Apprenticeships—DCSF, 16 to 19 Statement of Priorities and Investment Strategy 2010-11.

Apprenticeships for those aged 16 to 18 are fully funded by the public purse. For learners aged 19 or over the employer is expected to make a contribution towards the cost of the course.

The public cost of delivering an apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry in which the apprenticeship framework is being delivered; whether the framework is at level 2 or 3; and whether the participant is in the 16 to 18, 19 to 25 or 25+ age group. For example the LSC estimate that it costs £2,749 to deliver a level 2 adult apprenticeship framework in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools and £4,083 to deliver the level 3 equivalent framework. Between industries the difference in estimated costs can be more marked. LSC estimate that the cost of delivering a level 3 adult apprenticeship in clock and watch repair is £13,409 but the cost of an adult apprenticeship at the same level in business and administration is £3,327.

It is not therefore possible to provide a meaningful average cost to the public purse of an apprenticeship.

Apprentices: Per Capita Costs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent per adult student participating in *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships in the latest year for which figures are available. [311820]

Kevin Brennan: This Department allocates funding to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of adult (aged 19 and over) apprenticeships in England. Planned spend on adult apprenticeships for 2008-09 to 2010-11 financial years is given in the following table.

	£000
Financial year	*Adult (aged 19 and over) apprenticeships*
2008-09	332,911
2009-10	389,914
2010-11	398,410

Source:
BIS Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, November 2009

The public cost of delivering an apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry in which the apprenticeship framework is being delivered; whether the framework is at Level 2 or 3; and whether the participant is in the 16 to 18, 19 to 25 or 25+ age group. For example, the LSC estimate that it costs £2,749 to deliver a Level 2 adult apprenticeship framework in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools and £4,083 to deliver the Level 3 equivalent framework. Between industries the difference in estimated costs can be more marked. LSC estimate that the cost of delivering a Level 3 adult apprenticeship in clock and watch repair is £13,409 but the cost of an adult apprenticeship at the same level in Business and Administration is £3,327.

It is not therefore possible to provide a meaningful average cost to the public purse of an adult apprenticeship at Level 2 or 3.

Billing

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will undertake an impact assessment for the *(a)* retail and *(b)* bill payments sector of Camelot's proposed entry into the ancillary services market, with particular reference to its proposals on (i) bill payment and (ii) mobile telephone top-up services. [312805]

Mr. McFadden: This is a matter for the Office of Fair Trading which has a responsibility for investigating competition matters within markets, including Camelot's proposed entry into the ancillary services market.

Child Care Facilities: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of companies in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* West Yorkshire which provide child care facilities. [306604]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the ownership of child care provision in England. The survey does not have information at local authority level. The 2008 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey found that, of the 3,000 child care providers (i.e. full day care, full day care in children's centres, sessional and out of school provision) in Yorkshire and the Humber, 1,400 were privately owned.

Construction: Standards

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much expenditure under each budgetary heading his Department has spent on advertising the TrustMark scheme in each year since the scheme was launched. [311420]

Ian Lucas: The Government gave a grant from their resource budget of approximately £2.5 million to set up and support TrustMark during its first two years (2005/06 and 2006/07). Approximately half of this was spent on advertising.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department holds records on the efficiency achieved by its *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies in paying invoices within 10 days of receipt. [312275]

Mr. McFadden: Yes, the Department periodically receives updates from some of its partner organisations on their performance in paying invoices within 10 working days of receipt. Performance is published annually in the respective bodies' Annual Report and Accounts.

Departmental Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether written health and safety advice is issued to new employees in his Department. [311376]

Mr. McFadden: On appointment to the Department, line managers are responsible for the initial induction process for new employees. This process includes the requirement for all new staff to receive health and safety induction, with a checklist being available for managers to follow covering health and safety policy, employee and employer responsibilities, emergency arrangements and any risk control measures and safe working practices that are in place for the tasks that they will be undertaking.

Written health and safety advice is available to all staff via the Department's intranet.

Departmental Information and Communication Technology

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many iPods have been bought by his Department since its establishment; and at what cost. [311901]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing on networked computers. [310762]

Mr. McFadden: We make use of a commercial database which lists existing websites by categories.

We currently only block access to the following categories:

Adult/ Mature Content,
Pornography,
Violence/Hate/Racism,
Internet E-mail Sites (for security purposes),
Spyware Effects/Privacy Concerns,
Spyware/Malware Sources,
Suspicious.

The situation is under review at the moment and we may extend the number of categories that we block. However, because of the wide remit of the Department, it is difficult to extend the blocking much further without impacting on the ability of people to carry out their work.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the latest period for which figures are available. [310871]

Mr. McFadden: The Department maintains a Flickr Pro account, at a cost of US $24.95. Only one year's upgrade to Flickr Pro has so far been purchased.

Time spent on maintaining the Department's Flickr pages is not recorded, but is estimated to total no more than 20 minutes per week for one staff member.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Departmental Trade Union Side Officers agreement. [312269]

Mr. McFadden: This Department is seeking to establish a departmental trade union side agreement following the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Once this has been agreed, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many trade union side officers are employed by his Department; and how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department work exclusively on union activities. [312270]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 6 June 2009 by merging the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

This Department employs 5.6 departmental trade union side officers and 2.0 FTE staff working exclusively on union activities.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report,* columns 420-21W, on digital broadcasting: radio, whether it is his policy that the date from which it is deemed that adequate notice has been given to the programme making and special events sector on the need to use different frequencies and to purchase alternative equipment should start only after the new frequencies have been promulgated and such frequencies are fully available for use. [313178]

Mr. Timms: As the hon. Member is aware, Ofcom is responsible for the assignment of radio frequencies and is not obliged to find alternative frequencies when giving notice to vacate. However, Ofcom is working on finding alternative spectrum for PMSE users and has already identified channel 38 as a dedicated channel, and expects to announce further frequencies available on an interleaved basis from later this year.

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the availability of radio microphones and similar technologies that will be usable following the sale of digital dividend channels 31 to 37 and 61 to 69, *(b)* the market size for such technologies and *(c)* the price of such technologies relative to their existing equivalents; and if he will make a statement. [313180]

Mr. Timms: The Department has made no assessment. The majority of wireless microphones tune to channel 69 and Ofcom has made channel 38 available as the replacement spectrum for this. Radio microphones are already available and are used in the interleaved spectrum which will still be available for programme making and special events use after digital switchover. Ofcom recently consulted on the amount of channel 69 equipment eligible for funding, but are unable to give a figure for equipment which is operating without a licence.

English Language

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many English language schools have been found to be operating below standard upon inspection in the last 12 months; what estimate he has made of the number to have closed as a result of such inspection findings; and if he will make a statement. [304557]

Kevin Brennan: It is not the responsibility of this Department to fund or take remedial action on private or charitable trusts who deliver English language. Inspection of English language schools is the responsibility of the independent accrediting bodies; these are the British Council, the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC), the British Accreditation Council (BAC) and the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS).

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have been certified by English language schools in the period between those schools being deemed to fall below acceptable standards and his Department taking remedial action in the last 12 months. [304563]

Kevin Brennan: It is not the responsibility of this Department to take remedial action on private or charitable trusts who deliver English language courses. Inspection of English language schools is the responsibility of independent accrediting bodies; these are the British Council, the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC), the British Accreditation Council (BAC) and the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS).

Further Education: Government Assistance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many colleges have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received exceptional support funding from the Learning and Skills Council in each year since 2005; and how much such funding each such college received. [304840]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the level of exceptional support funding provided to individual further education (FE) colleges is not held at departmental level. This information is held by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC's chief executive, Geoff Russell, will write to the hon. Member for Bristol, West with the information requested.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 15 December 2009:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked: "how many colleges have (a) applied for and (b) received Exceptional Support Funding from the Learning and Skills Council in each year since 2005; and how much such funding each such college received."

The LSC has provided exceptional funding to the college sector as illustrated in the table below. This funding has been administered from national budgets and all cases are supported by a robust business case.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Total amount of funding provided to mergers (£ million)	6.8	3.5	15.6	9.2	35.1
Number of colleges	7	2	7	4	20
Exceptional financial support (£ million)	16.1	13.0	10.7	0.0	39.8
Number of colleges	13	11	10	0	34
Total exceptional support funding (£ million)	22.9	16.5	26.3	9.2	74.9

The above table has been split between merger support (which is written off in year and is a non-returnable cash pressure to the LSC) and exceptional support which is clawed back normally over a 3-4 year period by the LSC subject to an adequate/robust recovery plan. The final tranche of exceptional support payments (c£1.5m) are being amortised in 2009-10 out of the capital budget.

Some of the uses to which exceptional support has been given are:

To enhance provision to meet local, regional and national priorities.

Support the re-organisation of college provision.

Support the implementation of a college strategic recovery plan.

Support the financial viability of a college.

Improve the quality of learning provision within a college.

The LSC does not usually name colleges in receipt of exceptional support due to the sensitive nature of this particular information. In addition the LSC would need to liaise with the AOC prior to any publication which would obviously take much longer.

Garages and Petrol Stations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many full-time officials in his Department have responsibility for policy on the retail petrol industry; and if he will make a statement; [312728]

(2) what monitoring his Department undertakes of the geographical distribution of petrol filling stations. [312729]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for oil policy and has three full-time officials with policy responsibility for downstream oil and its resilience. We receive quarterly data on the geographical distribution of filling stations for resilience purposes.

Higher Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of university students who have withdrawn from a course as a result of a delay in receiving student finance in 2009-10. [312211]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has not made such an estimate and data on non-continuation of students in higher education would not specifically show numbers who have withdrawn from a course in 2009/10 academic year due to delays in receiving student finance. I am advised that, as at 13 December 2009, Student Finance England had paid 817,000 students and that it is still receiving around 1,000 new applications a week. Students whose application for student support was not approved by the start of term would have been able to apply for help through the Access to Learning Fund, which is provided by the Government and administered by higher education institutions, and can provide assistance to students in financial hardship.

Higher Education: Admissions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals took up a place at (i) university and (ii) a Russell Group university in each year since 1997. [309215]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The figures in the table show pupils who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of academic years 2001/02 and 2002/03 who progressed to HE by the age of 19 (in 2005/06 and 2006/07 respectively).

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Matched higher education data are available only from 2005/06. Figures for 2007/08 will be available in 2010.

Estimates of the number and proportion of pupils aged 15 in 2001/02 and 2002/03 academic years, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2005/06 and 2006/07

	Young persons in UK HE[1]				*of which Russell Group HEIs*			
	FSM[2]		*Non-FSM*[2]		*FSM*		*Non-FSM*	
Academic year	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005/06	10,800	13	156,000	33	1,000	1	33,000	7
2006/07	11,400	14	164,000	33	1,000	1	32,600	7

[1] Includes HE level courses at English further education colleges.

[2] FSM and non-FSM indicate receipt and non-receipt of free school meals respectively.

Notes:

1. In 2002/03 there were 81,100 maintained school pupils aged 15 claiming free school meals. This represents around 14 per cent. of all pupils in English maintained schools.
2. All figures are estimates and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

Higher Education: Finance

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of financial support provided by *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK (i) private sector organisations and (ii) charities for research in the higher education sector in each of the last five years. [310628]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) undertakes official data collection and analysis relating to higher education in the UK. The HESA Finance Record is published annually and it is the main source of historical information on the funding activities of UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The expected release of the next HE Finance Plus, relating to the year 2008/09, is April 2010.

Table 1 illustrates that financial support from UK private sector organisations and charities for research has increased substantially over the past five years. Annualised growth rates for both sources of income stand at 3.6 per cent., well above the Treasury's projections for inflation (2.5 per cent. per annum over this period), thereby securing real growth of investment from non-public sources into HEIs research resources.

Table 1: Funding from domestic sources for all HEIs in the UK

All figures in current £ million

Domestic funds	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
UK charities	691.4	700.1	725.7	767.5	825.8
UK private business	247.3	243.4	256.4	289.7	296.1

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) 'HE Finance Plus'. Various years.

Foreign funds are reported under 'EU' and 'Overseas' categories, without consideration of the charitable status of the source. The relevant figures are listed in Table 2. They represent only a fraction of domestic resources attracted for research by HEIs in the UK but they have been growing faster than the former, at an annualised rate of 9 per cent., demonstrating an improving international standing of HEI research quality in the UK.

Table 2: Funding from foreign sources for all HEIs in the UK

All figures in current £ million

Foreign funds	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
EU	32.6	34.3	40.3	45.9	51.8
Overseas	143.4	151.3	171.8	199.1	217.3

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) 'HE Finance Plus'. Various years.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what higher educational facilities in the UK receive funding from overseas Governments. [311499]

Mr. Lammy: Individual higher education institutions, as autonomous bodies, receive funding from a variety of public and private sources, both in the UK and beyond. The Higher Education Statistics Agency finance record gives details of the income received by the higher education sector as a whole. However, information related to funding from overseas Governments is not collected centrally.

Higher Education: Free School Meals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 810W, on higher education: admissions, what the equivalent figures for university entrance are for pupils eligible for free school meals whose ethnicity was recorded as white British. [311115]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* I can confirm that the figures provided in that answer are for white British pupils only.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many non-EU overseas students were accepted onto an undergraduate or postgraduate course, paid their fees, and were subsequently reported by their institution not to have attended the course in each of the last five academic years. [309803]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

Under the previous student route, education providers were not required to inform the UK Border Agency if an international student did not attend the course for which they were enrolled or pay the appropriate fee.

However, Tier 4 of the Points Based System introduces new requirements for education providers to provide details of international students and their courses. These requirements will mean that Tier 4 sponsors will be required to provide information on the course being followed, whether a student is not attending the course and whether any fees remain unpaid.

Higher Education: Research

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from university and college unions on his Department's proposed changes to arrangements for research funding. [311749]

Mr. Lammy: In the course of departmental business Ministers meet with many stakeholders and discuss a wide range of issues. I meet regularly with representatives of the University and College Union (UCU). I met with Sally Hunt, General Secretary of the UCU on 20 January when the proposed detail of the impact element of the Research Excellence Framework was discussed.

Higher Education: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Torbay constituency attended university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [312397]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is provided in the following table.

Enrolments[1] from Torbay constituency[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic year 1997/98 and 2008/09

Academic year	*Number of enrolments*
1997/98	1,560
2008/09	1,955

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.
[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to establish a University of Wirral under its new University Challenge scheme. [312414]

Mr. Lammy: As set out in Higher Ambitions, we are committed to the enhancement of locally accessible higher education through a new University Challenge initiative. Since 2003, the Higher Education Funding Council for England has announced support for 17 new local HE centres. In October last year, the HEFCE announced that six further outline proposals could be taken forward, including one in the Wirral. The timing for submission of full business cases will be decided in the context of the next spending review.

Industrial Relations: Former Commissioners

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the offices of *(a)* the Commissioner for Rights of Trade Union Members and *(b)* the Commissioner for Protection Against Unlawful Industrial Action were discontinued. [312276]

Mr. McFadden: As the Government explained in the 1998 'Fairness at Work' White Paper, the arrangements underpinning the work of the Commissioners were inefficient and unnecessary. The Commissioners were therefore abolished and new powers were given to the Certification Officer to ensure that trade union members could secure their rights more easily and effectively.

Jobcentre Plus: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure effective co-operation between college and university careers services and Jobcentre Plus. [312812]

Mr. McFadden: Access to good quality information, advice and guidance is important in helping learners improve their skills, get a job and progress in work. The adult advancement and career service (AACS) will provide all adults in England, from August 2010, with access to impartial advice and support. Once established, it will work in partnership with a range of organisations in local networks, including colleges and universities, and with Connexions services to support smooth transitions between services for young people and adults. It will also work in partnership with Jobcentre Plus as an integrated employment and skills system. Currently, Jobcentre Plus advisers have comprehensive guidance on helping people access graduate internships, either directly through the graduate talent pool or by signposting customers to university careers services. We are developing a partnership agreement to promote good practice and active collaboration between university careers services and Jobcentre Plus. We will also be developing a graduate guarantee so that all new graduates still unemployed after six months will have access to an internship, training or help to become self-employed.

Minimum Wage: Lancashire

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people in work in Salford have received pay at the national minimum wage rate since its introduction. [311946]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings are not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes at this level in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). For the same reason estimates for those earning a wage rate exactly at the NMW are not available.

At the Government office region level, BIS analysis of the 2009 ASHE indicates that 107,000 jobholders in the North West region were earning a wage rate at or below the NMW rate in April 2009.

Department of Trade and Industry previously estimated that the number of jobholders that stood to benefit from the April 1999 introduction of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) in the North West region was 140,000.

Morocco

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what export of military equipment to Morocco for use in Western Sahara he most recently licensed; and on what date. [312361]

Ian Lucas: The most recent licence for export to Morocco of military equipment where the stated end-use was in the Western Sahara was a Standard Individual Export Licence (SIEL) for military firing sets and components for military firing sets for use in humanitarian de-mining operations issued on 7 October 2009.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the implication for competition in the UK retail motor industry of the European Commission's proposals to replace sector-specific block exemptions for the industry with a general exemption; and if he will make a statement. [311021]

Kevin Brennan: A revised Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation (MVBER) will come into force on 1 June 2010, when the current MVBER (No. 1400/2002) expires. There is no proposal to replace the MVBER with the general Vertical Agreements and Concerted Practices Block Exemption Regulation (No. 2790/1999), itself currently under review. The MVBER, both current and revised, are in addition to the Vertical Agreements and Concerted Practices Block Exemption Regulation. The European Commission's latest public consultation on a revised draft text of the MVBER and accompanying guidelines is underway. The draft regulation and guidelines reflect the European Commission's already extensive consultation with business, national competition authorities and member states. In particular, the provisions in respect of the market for repair and maintenance services and spare parts where we, based on ongoing discussions with business and stakeholder groups, have intervened strongly with the European Commission to ensure the effectiveness of the revised regulation and guidelines for the repair and maintenance sector.

National Physical Laboratory

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the value added to the economy by the National Physical Laboratory. [313126]

Mr. Lammy: On 20 May 2009, the National Measurement Office, which was then part of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills but is now an Executive Agency of BIS, published an Economic Impact Report—Metrology Investment: Impact on Innovation and Productivity. The models described in that report estimated that an additional investment of £6 million (10 per cent. of the annual investment at the time) in the National Measurement System (NMS) could enable additional GDP of between £300 million and £400 million through enhanced innovation.

The NMS budget covers work at several laboratories but about 80 per cent. of it is carried at the National Physical Laboratory. The National Physical Laboratory also carries out significant work not funded from the NMS budget.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308504]

Mr. McFadden: We are unable to supply the information requested. As far as we aware the figures are less then five in each year since 1997 (in this Department and its predecessors) and therefore suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 11 January 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

For grounds of confidentiality we are unable to provide this information because the number of staff who have been convicted in any one year is fewer than five, and therefore any details provided may enable the individual concerned to be identified.

In dealing with criminal convictions the Intellectual Property Office's policy and procedures adhere to and are in line with Civil Service Management Code.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 18 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 15 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

According to our records, no employee of the National Measurement Office, nor of its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, has been convicted of a criminal offence since 1997.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 18 December 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997.

The Insolvency Service does not record the data of employees who have been convicted of a criminal offence in any central database, and we would need to look in each employees' personal file, where the information is recorded. We are therefore unable to provide the required information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 22 January 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2009, UIN 308504, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

I am unable to supply the information requested. The figures are less than five in each year since 1997 and therefore suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

Origin Marking

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will put in place procedures to record separately the export of products to those Moroccan settlements in the occupied Western Sahara deemed to be illegal. [312311]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply as Minister with responsibility for HM Revenue and Customs.

As a member of the European Union, the UK operates European Union customs legislation and tariff at its borders. European customs procedures do not contain a separate country code for Western Sahara. The absence of a specific country code means that the information requested is not available, and it is not possible to put in place the monitoring procedure requested.

The information requested on imports into the UK from Morocco is provided in the following table:

Consignments imported into the UK from Morocco

	Number	Value (£)
2007	91,972	409,919,889
2008	73,580	406,090,728
2009	59,962	302,691,526

Overseas Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many foreign nationals have studied at English language schools in England which have subsequently been closed for failing to reach required standards of teaching in each of the last three years. [311503]

Kevin Brennan: It is not the responsibility of this Department to monitor or maintain standards of teaching at English language schools in England as they are private or charitable trusts. Inspection of English language schools is the responsibility of independent accrediting bodies; these are the British Council, the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC), the British Accreditation Council (BAC) and the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS).

Policy

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310335]

Mr. McFadden: Since 2000, the policies and actions of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and its predecessors) have focused on building a competitive economy and on delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. The implementation of BIS policy in the London borough of Lambeth (information is not available specifically for the Vauxhall constituency) has been taken forward primarily by the London Development Agency and the Government office for London, working in partnership with the local authority and other relevant bodies.

Caution must be exercised in seeking to attribute directly the effects of specific measures on local economic indicators. Nonetheless, examples of how BIS policies and actions have impacted on Lambeth include:

Levels of skills have increased in Lambeth since 2001 and remain above the London and national averages[1].

Performance at level 2 has increased from 71.4 per cent. to 72.0 per cent.

Performance at level 3 has increased from 56.8 per cent. to 58.0 per cent.

Performance at level 4 has increased from 41.9 per cent. to 45.8 per cent.

The stock of VAT registered businesses has increased from 5,495 businesses in 1997 to 8,475 businesses in 2007[2].

The proportion of business registrations (including VAT and PAYE) per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above (National Indicator 171) has increased from 64.0 in 2002 to 82.8 in 2008[3].

The percentage of small businesses showing growth in number of employees (National Indicator 172) has increased from 9.73 per cent. in 2003 to 12.39 per cent. in 2008.

[1] APS—Annual Population Survey data.

[2] Extracted from NOMIS, source: BERR—VAT registrations/deregistrations by industry.

[3] Data produced by BIS and available on the BIS website:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/national_indicators/index.htm

[4] As above.

Radio Frequencies

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on levels of investment by the programme making and special events sector in radio microphones and associated technologies that will be usable beyond 2012 since notice of the spectrum clearance was provided by Ofcom. [312865]

Mr. Timms: Ofcom has estimated the costs for the residual value of programme making and special events (PMSE) equipment that will be affected by the changes in channel 69 to be £15-30 million, taking into account the relevant life of the equipment, and has made these costs available to the Department. Costs of £67 million have also been provided by representatives of PMSE users, based on a new for old approach and the costs of clearing all the channels affected.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the migration of programme making and special events users from the digital dividend spectrum channels 31 to 37 and 61 to 69 to replacement frequencies to *(a)* start and *(b)* finish; and if he will make a statement. [312866]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Regional Development Agencies: Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* address and *(b)* area is of each regional development agency property which is (i) occupied and (ii) vacant according to data held in the electronic property information mapping service database. [312499]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: Documents listing the addresses and areas of each Regional Development Agency property which are *(a)* occupied and *(b)* vacant, as currently recorded in the e-PIMS database, have been placed in the Libraries of the House. E-PIMS is a live database that is constantly being updated.

Royal Mail: Snow and Ice

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with Royal Mail on delivery routes in areas which are not receiving mail because of extreme weather conditions; [311369]

(2) what discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the effects of severely adverse weather conditions on postal deliveries. [312073]

Mr. McFadden: Department officials have been in contact with Royal Mail during the severe weather. I understand that the vast majority of motorways and major trunk roads linking the UK have remained open during the severe weather allowing Royal Mail's national networking to operate, but local deliveries and collections have been disrupted, especially in remote areas, where local roads and access have been affected by extreme weather conditions.

Decisions relating to operational matters are the direct responsibility of the company and local assessments are made on whether services can operate safely under local conditions. Royal Mail has been keeping customers informed of disrupted services via its website:

www.royalmail.com

but due to the nature of the changing conditions, assessments are regularly made and it is not always possible to give customers advanced notice of whether local services will be operating as normal.

The Government would like to thank postmen and women up and down the country for their efforts to deliver the mail during the severe weather.

Students: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in higher education have received payments in respect of *(a)* tuition fee loans, *(b)* maintenance loans, *(c)* grants for living costs, *(d)* bursaries and scholarships and *(e)* extra help for students with children or adult dependents in Gloucestershire in each of the last three years; and what the amount was of payments of each such type made to students from Gloucestershire in each such year. [310980]

Mr. Lammy: The available information is shown in the table.

Student support, Gloucestershire 2006/07 to 2008/09

	Academic Year					
	2006/07		*2007/08*		*2008/09*	
	Students (thousands)	*Value (£ million)*	*Students (thousands)*	*Value (£ million)*	*Students (thousands)*	*Value (£ million)*
Tuition Fee Loans	4.7	8.7	6.4	15.9	8.0	23.0
Maintenance Loans	8.8	31.2	8.9	31.2	9.2	32.4
HE Maintenance Grant	1.7	3.0	3.0	5.7	4.8	8.8
HE Grant	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.2
Extra help for students with children or adult dependents[1]	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.7

[1] Childcare Grant, Parental Learning Allowance, Lone Parents Grant and Adult Dependants Grant.

Note:

The information requested on bursaries and scholarships is not available centrally as they are the responsibility of higher education institutions. Complete information for the current academic year 2009/10 is not yet available, and will be available in late 2010 when a Statistical First Release on Student Support will be published on the Student Loans Company website.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students normally resident in Gloucestershire have *(a)* attended and *(b)* received student loans to attend university courses in each year since 1997. [310981]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on enrolments from Gloucestershire local authority is shown in Table 1. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

Table 1: Enrolments[1] from Gloucestershire local authority, UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 1997/98 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Enrolments*
1997/98	12,905
1998/99	12,895
1999/2000	12,735
2000/01	13,080
2001/02	13,270
2002/03	13,730
2003/04	14,440
2004/05	14,300
2005/06	14,420
2006/07	14,210
2007/08	14,145
2008/09	14,620

[1] Covers enrolments to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

[2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their data across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a snapshot count as at 1 December to maintain consistency across the time series and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Data from the Student Loans Company on the number of student loan borrowers from Gloucestershire are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Income contingent student loan borrowers 2001/02 to 2008/09[1]

Academic year	*Students receiving loans*
2001/02	8,200
2002/03	8,600
2003/04	8,700
2004/05	8,800
2005/06	8,800
2006/07	8,900
2007/08	9,200
2008/09	9,600

[1] Consistent data are not available before 2001/02. Figures cover income contingent loans for maintenance and tuition fees, older mortgage style loans are excluded. Table covers loans to full-time undergraduate students, those on postgraduate initial teacher training courses, and part-time loans.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

Data from the two sources (HESA and SLC) are not directly comparable because certain students and courses (for example most postgraduate courses) included in Table 1 do not attract student support. Table 2 covers full-time undergraduate students, as well as part-time students who were eligible for part-time loans in the past (now replaced by other forms of support), and those on postgraduate initial teacher training courses. Additionally, Table 2 provides those who have taken out loans, but does not include others who have received student support in the form of a grant or allowance.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills from what supermarkets he has received representations on the recommendation of the Competition Commission to introduce a statutory code of practice and an ombudsman; and what discussions he plans to have on the implications of the recommendation. [312757]

Kevin Brennan: I have received a large number of representations over recent months from supermarkets and other organisations on the recommendation of the Competition Commission to introduce a statutory code of practice and an ombudsman. We announced on 13 January that Government have accepted the need for independent enforcement of the groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP) and would launch a consultation in February. I anticipate further discussions with a wide range of businesses and organisations, including supermarkets, over the coming months as we take the policy forward.

Training: Autism

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations his Department has received on the skills and training requirements of people with autism. [304204]

Kevin Brennan: The Minister of State, Department of Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope), who is responsible for Care Services, wrote to my right hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property in September 2009 asking for support to develop a strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions.

Skills are vital for helping people with learning difficulties—including those associated with autism—obtain employment.

In order to support them to gain skills, we will ensure the new adult advancement and careers service (to be rolled out autumn 2010), can meet their needs and advise them on skills opportunities. For people with learning difficulties at Entry Level or Level 1, Foundation Learning will promote progression through personalised learning programmes delivered by schools, colleges and training organisations. Foundation Learning will be available from September 2010, with the majority of schools expected to be involved by 2011-12.

JUSTICE

Burges Salmon Solicitors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many representations he has received from hon. Members on the conduct of Burges Salmon LLP Solicitors. [313113]

Bridget Prentice: To date the Ministry of Justice have received four written inquiries from hon. Members and three questions in the House, including those raised by my hon. Friend the Member for Vale of Clwyd, regarding the conduct of Burges Salmon LLP Solicitors.

As I have previously stated, this matter is currently being investigated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).

Convictions: Video Recordings Act 1984

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there have been under section *(a)* 9, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 11, *(d)* 12, *(e)* 13 and *(f)* 14 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since each such section came into force. [311771]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Video Recordings Act 1984, England and Wales 1995 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following tables. Prior to 1995 data under the Video Recordings Act 1984 formed part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be separately analysed.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1984 Video Recording Act, England and Wales, 1995 to 2007[1,2]

Offence	*Statute*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
Supplying video recording of unclassified work	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 9 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88	44	57	60	28	61	69	62
Persons video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 10 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88	75	61	69	75	61	73	68
Supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 11 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(4)	12	17	16	22	40	18	10
Certain video recordings only to be supplied in licensed sex shops	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(5)	2	1	—	—	—	—	6
Supply of video recording not complying with requirements as to labels etc.	Video Recording Act 1984 Sec 13	3	2	—	1	1	6	3
Supply of video recordings containing false indication as to classification	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 14 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(6)	1	2	1	1	—	1	—

Offence	*Statute*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Supplying video recording of unclassified work	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 9 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88	59	44	31	28	12	22

Offence	*Statute*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Persons video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 10 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88	62	31	43	37	53	57
Supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 11 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(4)	14	17	8	9	8	2
Certain video recordings only to be supplied in licensed sex shops	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(5)	4	10	48	12	8	5
Supply of video recording not complying with requirements as to labels etc.	Video Recording Act 1984 Sec 13	—	—	—	1	—	1
Supply of video recordings containing false indication as to classification	Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 14 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(6)	—	—	2	2	—	—

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[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Debt Collection

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many certificated bailiffs have been struck off the HM Courts Service bailiff register in the last 36 months; and on what grounds such bailiffs may be struck off. [311958]

Bridget Prentice: Nine certificated bailiffs have been removed from the register in the years 2007 to 2009. Their certificates were cancelled either due to an upheld complaint or dismissal from their employer.

Cancellation of a bailiff's certificate may result from a complaint in Form 4 or 5 of the Distress for Rent Rules 1988 as to the bailiff's conduct or fitness to hold a certificate. Such a complaint is made to the court which issued the certificate.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the commencement of the provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 relating to allowing a judgment creditor to apply for a charging order in circumstances in which a debtor is up to date with an instalment arrangement. [312045]

Bridget Prentice: In 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor asked for a reassessment of the enforcement provisions within the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to ensure that they remain appropriate. Following that review, the Government announced on 17 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 46WS, that they would not implement the provisions in Part 4 of the Act.

Debts: Credit Cards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether HM Courts Service's evaluation of taking payments from debtors by credit card is now complete. [312071]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 11 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 788W.

The national roll out of credit and debit card facilities is currently under consideration. The timetable for the introduction of these facilities has not yet been finalised. The evaluation report will be published during the spring.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many iPods have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311905]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's accounting systems do not separately identify any expenditure on iPods. It would incur disproportionate cost to examine invoices and Government Procurement Card statements held locally across the business to identify relevant costs.

All expenditure by the Ministry of Justice is undertaken in accordance with the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money contained in HM Treasury's 'Managing Public Money' and in pursuit of departmental aims and objectives. The purchase of iPods can therefore be expected to be highly exceptional. We are aware of 10 iPods being bought in this period as competition prizes awarded as incentives to maximise participation in the annual Staff Engagement Survey, a prison survey on fast track processes and to generate Local Criminal Justice Board nominations for Justice Awards, all competitions which play an important part in securing departmental objectives and for which it is desirable to secure as wide participation as possible.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2008; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300893]

Mr. Straw: Non-consolidated performance pay may be awarded either at the 'end of year' or 'in year'. For staff in grades below the senior civil service (SCS) the 'end of year' non-consolidated performance pay awards are made as part of the annual pay award to staff whose performance over the course of the year has been judged as outstanding/exceeded expectations under the relevant performance management system.

Awards of 'in year' non-consolidated performance payments are made to staff in recognition of specific contributions during the year over and above the contribution expected for someone in a particular role.

The following table provides details of both 'in year' and 'end of year' payments for staff in grades below the SCS.

2008	*Type of non-consolidated payment*	*Number of staff awarded payment*	*Percentage of the eligible staff receiving payment*	*Highest payment (£)*	*Total value of payments (£)*
Ministry (excluding National Offender Management Service)	'end of year'	1,608	15.08	1,200	1,929,600
	'in year'	6,135	22	5,675	2,566,120
HM Prison Service and the NOMS HQ	'end of year'	5,332	32	809	1,325,952
	'in year'	5,538	10	5,000	2,575,912

Note.
Payments made to staff with the Probation Services are not included

During 2008 the Ministry awarded 159 senior civil servants non-consolidated performance related payments. This represented 65 per cent. of eligible staff. The total amount awarded was £1,648,000 and the largest award made was £25,000.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2006. [306423]

Mr. Straw: Depending on their various terms and conditions, staff employed in the Ministry of Justice and its agencies may be eligible for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in year non-consolidated performance pay. Details are shown as follows:

Senior civil service

Performance related pay is awarded to senior civil servants (SCS) in line with the recommendations made by the Senior Salaries Review Body. Non-consolidated performance related payments are made as part of the annual pay award to those whose performance has exceeded agreed delivery objectives during the previous performance year.

Paid in calendar year	*Number of SCS receiving a payment*	*Total amount paid (£)*
2007	116	866,500
2008	159	1,648,000
2009	152	1,375,000

Note:
The 2007 figures refer to SCS members in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) only.

Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS)

For staff in grades below the SCS (excluding the National Offender Management Service (NOMS)), non-consolidated performance pay may be awarded either at the 'end of year' or 'in year'. Awards of 'end of year' non-consolidated performance pay are made as part of the annual pay award to staff whose performance over the course of the year has been judged as outstanding under the Ministry's performance management system.

From 1 August 2007, common terms and conditions were introduced for staff in the Ministry of Justice excluding NOMS. The value of year end non-consolidated performance pay was increased to £1,200. Details are shown in the following table.

Paid in financial year	*Number of staff receiving a payment*	*Total amount paid (£)*
2006-07	1,848	739,000
2007-08	2,419	967,966
2008-09	1,608	1,929,600

Note:
The 2006-07 figures refer to staff members in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) only, and exclude any payment to staff who joined from the Home Office in 2007 on the creation of the Ministry of Justice.

Awards of 'in year' non-consolidated performance pay are given to recognise specific exceptional contributions during the year. The following table provides details:

Paid in financial year	*Number of staff receiving a payment*	*Total amount paid (£)*
2006-07	3,773	894,169
2007-08	5,327	2,348,520
2008-09	6,135	2,566,120

Note:
The 2006-07 figures refer to staff members in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) only, and exclude any payment to staff who joined from the Home Office in 2007 on the creation of the Ministry of Justice.

The increased amount paid from 2007 reflects that with effect from 1 August 2007, staff previously on magistrates courts terms and conditions and also those who joined from the various tribunals which became part of the Tribunals Service, became eligible for non-consolidated performance pay under the common terms and conditions introduced that year.

National Offender Management Service

Details for payments of 'year end' non-consolidated performance pay in the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 performance years for staff employed across HM Prison Service and the National Offender Management Service headquarters are shown in the following table:

Performance year	*Number of staff receiving a payment*	*Total amount paid (£)*
2006-07	4,817	1,096,766
2007-08	5,332	1,325,952
2008-09	5,256	1,426,330

Information on the number of staff in grades below the SCS receiving 'in year' non-consolidated performance payments and the total amount paid across HM Prison Service and National Offender Management Service headquarters is contained in the following table.

Paid in financial year	*Number of staff receiving a payment*	*Total amount paid (£)*
2006-07	2,432	873,141
2007-08	3,683	1,339,039
2008-09	5,558	2,575,912

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307027]

Mr. Straw: Depending on their various terms and conditions, staff employed in the Ministry of Justice and its agencies may be eligible for *(a)* 'year end' and *(b)* 'in year' non-consolidated performance pay.

Senior civil service

The Senior Salaries Review Body will provide recommendations on base pay and non-consolidated performance payments for members of the senior civil service (SCS) in 2009-10. No allocation is made in advance of their report. SCS Members are not eligible for 'in year' non-consolidated performance payments.

The Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS)

For 2009-10, the Ministry of Justice excluding NOMS (for grades below the SCS) has allocated £5,300,000 (0.6 per cent. of the paybill) for 'in year' non-consolidated performance pay and £3,800,000 (0.4 per cent. of the paybill) for 'year end' non-consolidated performance pay.

National Offender Management Service

NOMS has different staff groups who are covered by separate pay determination systems. 'In year' and 'end year' performance payments are made but it does not specifically allocate funding.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307091]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice does not pay staff bonuses. Depending on their various terms and conditions, staff employed in the Ministry of Justice and its agencies may be eligible for *(a)* 'year end' and *(b)* 'in year' non-consolidated performance pay. Details are shown as follows:

Senior Civil Service

Performance related pay is awarded to Senior Civil Servants (SCS) in line with the recommendations made by the Senior Salaries Review Body. Non-consolidated performance related payments are part of the SCS annual pay award. They are paid to individuals whose performance exceeds agreed delivery objectives during the previous reporting year. There is no 'in year' provision for bonus payments.

	Number of SCS receiving a payment	*Total amount paid (£)*
2007[1]	116	866,500
2008	159	1,648,000
2009	152	1,375,000

[1] The 2007 figures refer to SCS members in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) only.

Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS)

For staff in grades below the SCS (excluding the National Offender Management Services (NOMS)), non-consolidated performance pay may be awarded either at the 'year end' or 'in year'. Awards of 'year end' non-consolidated performance pay are made as part of the annual pay award to staff whose performance over the course of the year has been judged as outstanding under the Ministry's performance management system.

From 1 August 2007, common terms and conditions were introduced for staff in the Ministry of Justice excluding NOMS. The value of 'year end' non-consolidated performance pay was increased to £1,200. Details are shown in the following table.

	Number of staff receiving a payment	*Total amount paid (£)*
2006-07[1]	1,848	739,000
2007-08[2]	2,419	967,966
2008-09[2]	1,608	1,929,600

[1] The former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)
[2] Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS)

Awards of 'in year' non-consolidated performance pay are given to recognise specific exceptional contributions during the year. The following table provides details:

	Number of staff receiving a payment	*Total amount paid (£)*
2006-07[1]	3,773	894,169
2007-08[2]	5,327	2,348,520
2008-09[2]	6,135	2,566,120

[1] The former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)
[2] Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS)

The increased amount paid from 2007 reflects that with effect from 1 August 2007, staff previously on magistrates' courts terms and conditions together with those who joined from the various tribunals (which became part of the Tribunals Service) became eligible for non-consolidated performance pay under the common terms and conditions introduced that year.

National Offender Management Service

Details for payments of 'year end' non-consolidated performance pay in the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 performance years for staff employed across HM Prison Service and the National Offender Management Service headquarters are shown in the following table:

	Number of staff receiving a payment	*Total amount paid (£)*
2006-07	4,817	1,096,766

	Number of staff receiving a payment	Total amount paid (£)
2007-08	5,332	1,325,952
2008-09	5,256	1,426,330

Information on the number of staff in grades below the SCS receiving 'in year' non-consolidated performance payments and the total amount paid across HM Prison Service and National Offender Management Service Headquarters is contained in the following table.

	Number of staff receiving a payment	Total amount paid (£)
2006-07	2,432	873,141
2007-08	3,583	1,339,039
2008-09	5,538	2,575,912

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment was in cash terms for a senior civil servant in his Department in each of the last five years. [307373]

Mr. Straw: Performance related pay is awarded to senior civil servants (SCS) in line with the recommendations made by the Senior Salaries Review Board. Payments of non-consolidated performance related pay are made as part of the SCS annual pay award and it is dependant on the achievement of performance that exceeds agreed delivery objectives during the previous reporting year.

The *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment made to a SCS in the Ministry, over the past five years, is shown in the following table:

£

Performance year	Average non-consolidated performance related payment	Highest non-consolidated performance related payment
2008-09[1]	9,046	15,000
2007-08[1]	10,364	25,000
2006-07[2]	7,282	22,500
2005-06[2]	7,122	17,500
2004-05[2]	4,924	12,690

[1] This information includes non-consolidated performance related payments made to those SCS members employed in the Ministry HQ, the National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Court Service and the Tribunals Service. It excludes those employed by the National Archives, The Scotland Office and the Land Registry, as these costs are not met by the Ministry.

[2] This information refers to non-consolidated performance related payments to SCS members of staff in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) only before the Ministry of Justice was formed in May 2007.

Driving Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group who were prosecuted for speeding offences were subsequently found to be without (i) insurance and (ii) a valid driving licence in each of the last two years. [311191]

Claire Ward: The information requested is not held centrally. To obtain such information would require the manual retrieval of data pertaining to speeding offences to identify the individual followed and an analysis of insurance and driving license offences for those individuals. To do so would incur a disproportionate cost.

Electoral Register

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the introduction of individual electoral registration. [311956]

Mr. Wills: The timetable for the introduction of individual electoral registration remains as I set out during the parliamentary passage of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009. During Commons consideration of Lords amendments on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 99, I explained that:

> "Our approach to individual registration is to move in two phases: a voluntary phase and a compulsory phase. During the voluntary phase, it will be compulsory for electoral registration officers to ask individuals to provide the relevant identifying information—national insurance number, date of birth and signature—but individuals will not be required to do that to be on the register.....The voluntary phase will not commence before July 2010—in other words, it will not become entangled with the next general election, whenever that may be—and will not finish before 2014. That period will enable us to be fully confident that the system is ready before we move to the compulsory phase, when it will be obligatory for individuals to provide identifying information to electoral registration officers to be included on the register. It will enable us to prepare the public for the change, and to take steps to bolster registration rates in the meantime. That will be fundamental to protecting the system against the risk of a drop in the numbers registered."

Housing: Sales

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sales orders in respect of residential property there were in each year since 1997; and how many charging orders over residential properties have been issued in each year since 1997. [312927]

Bridget Prentice: The table shows the numbers of applications for charging orders, and the number of charging orders made, in the county courts of England and Wales in each year since 1997.

No figures are held centrally for orders for sale prior to June 2009, when a new data collection system was introduced. These data show that 160 orders for sale were made in the county courts of England and Wales between June 2009 and September 2009, the latest period for which figures are currently available.

These figures cover charging orders and orders for sale made against all types of property, not just residential property. Figures relating solely to orders against residential property are not held centrally and could be obtained through the examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost.

Number of applications for charging orders and charging orders made in England and Wales 1997-2008

	Applications	Orders made
1997	14,161	11,422
1998	13,758	10,652
1999	13,600	9,749
2000	16,014	9,689

Number of applications for charging orders and charging orders made in England and Wales 1997-2008

	Applications	*Orders made*
2001	21,870	15,487
2002	30,781	21,408
2003	35,052	25,217
2004	45,516	33,235
2005	65,780	49,218
2006	92,933	67,090
2007	131,637	97,026
2008	164,812	135,702

Source:
HMCS CaseMan system (2000-08) and manual returns (1997-99)

Hunting Act 2004: Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions, *(b)* convictions and *(c)* cautions there were for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 to date. [310986]

Mr. Straw: Cautions and court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

In 2007 the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in England and Wales for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 was 62. The number found guilty at all courts was 48. The number of cautions issued was eight.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303330]

Mr. Wills: Centrally held records show that my Department has not entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or any of its subsidiaries since January 2009.

Land Registry: Labour Turnover

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of staff expected to leave posts at the Land Registry as a result of the review of its offices and *(b)* the number of additional staff to be employed by the Land Registry in 2010-11. [313062]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry published their Accelerated Transformation Programme proposals on 22 October 2009. The first phase of the programme envisages a reduction of 1,500 staff by 2011. The proposals for the first phase of the programme include the closure of five offices, a reduction in the number of clerical staff, and an examination of the scope for outsourcing some of its support functions.

Land Registry is holding a public consultation, which ends on 29 January, on proposals to close five of its offices. The total number of staff working in the five offices as at 4 January 2010 was 1,125.

The business case published alongside the proposals included a working assumption about recruitment of staff including those with specialist expertise, such as commercial skills, procurement and contract management, programme and project management and IT. That assumption included the recruitment of 150 staff by December 2011. Land Registry will, of course, consider existing members of staff for posts as they arise before recruiting externally.

Land Registry is currently undertaking a workforce planning exercise and will review the recruitment projections in the business case. They will include the results of this review when they announce their final decisions and publish their consultation responses documents.

Land Registry: Resignations

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason the *(a)* Chief Executive and *(b)* Director of Operations left their positions at the Land Registry; and if he will make a statement. [313066]

Mr. Wills: Peter Collis, the Chief Executive and Chief Land Registrar of Land Registry, announced he was stepping down on 11 January 2010. After 10 years in post, having seen Land Registry through challenging times and a radical reform of land law, he felt that the time was right to make way for someone with different skills and experience to take Land Registry forward in a new environment.

Andy Howarth, the Director of Operations has decided, after 42 years' service, and having passed the pension age under his Civil Service Pension Scheme, to retire in April 2010.

Magistrates Courts: Fines

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which magistrates courts do not have on-site facilities for payment to be made in person. [312897]

Bridget Prentice: All magistrates courts in England and Wales offer facilities for payment to be made in person with the exception of Wells, Maidenhead, Abertillery, Aberystwyth, Ammanford, Cardigan and Carmarthen. The variety of payment facilities at other courts vary from site to site but include cash deposit boxes, payment counters, dedicated telephone lines and staff members with Allpay accounts. Her Majesty's Courts Service intends to ensure that some facility is provided in all courts.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the collection rate is for fines levied by each magistrates court. [312896]

Bridget Prentice: HMCS systems are unable to provide collection rates of fines for individual magistrates courts. Fine collection rates are broken down by local criminal justice board (LCJB) areas.

The current payment rate of financial impositions, from both the magistrates and crown courts, for each LCJB for the period April 2009 to December 2009 is:

LCJB area	*Payment rate (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	90
Bedfordshire	82
Cambridgeshire	85
Cheshire	[1]106
Cleveland	[1]116

LCJB area	*Payment rate (percentage)*
Cumbria	98
Derbyshire	118*
Devon and Cornwall	90
Dorset	84
Durham	87
Dyfed Powys	77
Essex	88
Gloucestershire	93
Greater Manchester	86
Gwent	99
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	65
Hertfordshire	84
Humberside	96
Kent	81
Lancashire	[1]108
Leicestershire	91
Lincolnshire	94
London	73
Merseyside	82
Norfolk	95
North Wales	70
North Yorkshire	92
Northamptonshire	94
Northumbria	75
Nottinghamshire	83
South Wales	77
South Yorkshire	89
Staffordshire	92
Suffolk	86
Surrey	83
Sussex	68
Thames Valley	82
Warwickshire	89
West Mercia	81
West Midlands	71
West Yorkshire	78
Wiltshire	88

[1] Financial penalties are not always paid within the same period which they are imposed and therefore the payment rate can be more than 100 per cent.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which magistrates courts have withdrawn in-person fine payment facilities in each of the last five years. [312928]

Bridget Prentice: All magistrates courts in England and Wales offer facilities for payment to be made in person with the exception of Abertillery, Aberystwyth, Ammanford, Cardigan and Carmarthen, Maidenhead and Wells. The variety of payment facilities at other courts vary from site to site but include cash deposit boxes, payment counters, dedicated telephone lines and staff members with Allpay accounts. Her Majesty's Courts Service intends to ensure that some facility is provided in all courts.

Over the last five years the following courts have had their cash counters removed, while retaining other in person payment facilities:

2005

Abergavenny
Abertillery
Balham
Bexley
Brent
Brentford
Bromley
Caerphilly
Camberwell Green
City of Westminster
Cwmbran
Ealing
Enfield
Feltham
Harrow
Kingston-upon-Thames
Newport
Richmond
South Western
Tower Bridge
Woolwich
Wimbledon
Uxbridge

2006

Carmarthen
Leamington
Southend

2007

City of London
Greenwich
Ipswich
Kings Lynn
Lowestoft
Newark

2008

Bury St. Edmunds
Great Yarmouth
Norwich
Poole
Runcorn

2009

Aldershot
Barnstaple
Basingstoke
Bodmin
Camborne
Cirencester
Exeter
Honiton
Mansfield
Newport (Isle of Wight)
Newton Abbot
Penzance
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Southampton
Stroud
Torquay
Truro
Worksop

Closed within the last five years but date unknown

Cambridge
Hinckley
Peterborough

In addition to the existing in person payment facilities at court, last year HMCS rolled out a dedicated 24 hour payment telephone line and internet site. HMCS also takes payment through the extensive network of Paypoint sites.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 14 December 2009 concerning a constituent. [312938]

Bridget Prentice: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 January.

Monarchy: Succession

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the statutory legal grounds are by which it is claimed the Act of Settlement excludes illegitimate children from a right to succession to the Crown, with particular reference to the basis of succession outlined in Section 1 of the Act of Settlement 1700; [312534]

(2) on what legal grounds, by reference to the Act of Settlement, the UK made its interpretative declaration in respect of articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born out of Wedlock. [312538]

Mr. Wills: Succession to the Crown is governed by the common law rules of descent for hereditary titles, including legitimacy, as well as the Act of Settlement. Although the Legitimacy Act 1976 made it possible for persons born outside wedlock to be legitimised, for most purposes, by the subsequent marriage of their parents, succession to the Crown and to any peerage is specifically exempted. The Act of Settlement and the common law together form the basis on which the UK's interpretative declaration in respect of articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born out of Wedlock was made and remains valid.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the UK's interpretative declaration in respect of articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born Out Of Wedlock is a designated derogation or reservation under article 1 (2) of the Human Rights Act 1998. [312535]

Mr. Wills: No. Section 15(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998 explains that:

> "In this Act "designated reservation" means:
>
> (a) the United Kingdom's reservation to Article 2 of the First Protocol to the Convention; and
>
> (b) any other reservation by the United Kingdom to an Article of the Convention, or of any protocol to the Convention, which is designated for the purposes of this Act in an order made by the Secretary of State."

The Convention referred to in section 15(1)(a) and (b) is the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The UK has no other reservations to the ECHR or any of its Protocols, and therefore none has been designated as described at article 15(1)(b).

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what external legal advice he has taken in respect of the rights of illegitimate children in succession to the Crown, and the UK's interpretative declaration made in February 1981 of articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born out of Wedlock. [312536]

Mr. Straw: There is no record of any external legal advice having been sought or received in respect of these matters.

Multiple Publication Rule

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to his Department's consultation on defamation, the internet and the multiple publication rule. [310969]

Mr. Straw: The consultation 'Defamation and the Internet: The Multiple Publication Rule' closed on 16 December 2009. The responses are currently being analysed, with a view to publishing the response paper in March 2010.

National Standards for Enforcement Agents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the National Standards for Enforcement Agents. [312044]

Bridget Prentice: The National Standards for Enforcement Agents was published in May 2002, and copies were placed in the Libraries of both Houses, at its launch on 8 May 2002, *Official Report*, column 252W.

Parole Board

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to his Department's consultation on the future of the Parole Board. [310968]

Mr. Straw: The consultation period was extended to allow for further replies. The Department is currently carrying out a full analysis of the responses and an official response will follow thereafter.

Pleural Plaques

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff are working on preparation of his Department's response to its consultation on pleural plaques. [311153]

Mr. Straw: Two full-time members of staff cover matters relating to the law of tort and damages, which includes the issue of pleural plaques.

Prisoners on Remand

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles remanded in custody were subsequently *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* given a non-custodial sentence in (i) a magistrates' court and (ii) the Crown Court in 2008. [311655]

Claire Ward: I wrote to the hon. Member on 10 August 2009 enclosing a table that showed data relating to the number of juveniles remanded in custody who were subsequently acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence in each year between 2003 and 2007. The 2007 data remain the latest currently available. Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women released from prison in each year since 2000 had served (i) four, (ii) five, (iii) six, (iv) seven, (v) eight, (vi) nine and (vii) 10 or more previous custodial sentences. [310964]

Mr. Straw: The following table contains the number of adult offenders who were discharged from custody in the first quarter of each year for which data are available, by number of previous custodial sentences and gender.

Please note this data is from the "Reoffending of adults: Results from the 2007 cohort" publication, therefore data are based only on the first quarter of each year. Figures for the total number of offenders cannot be aggregated up to full year figures because there is no evidence that the first quarter is representative of the full year.

Please note figures are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders. Since it will not substantially increase the knowledge on the current progress on reoffending, no resources have been allocated to fix this problem.

Adult offenders discharged from custody in the first quarter of each year, number of previous custodial sentence and gender, 2000, 2002-2007

	Number of offenders		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*
No previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	655	5,002	5,657
Q1 2002	561	4,573	5,134
Q1 2003	530	4,080	4,610
Q1 2004	561	4,212	4,773
Q1 2005	505	3,995	4,500
Q1 2006	522	4,115	4,637
Q1 2007	397	3,542	3,939
One previous custodial sentence			
Q1 2000	199	2,276	2,475
Q1 2002	190	2,152	2,342
Q1 2003	150	1,889	2,039
Q1 2004	223	2,009	2,232
Q1 2005	182	1,818	2,000
Q1 2006	158	1,769	1,927
Q1 2007	141	1,626	1,767
Two previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	88	1,540	1,628
Q1 2002	127	1,579	1,706
Q1 2003	129	1,381	1,510
Q1 2004	139	1,430	1,569
Q1 2005	135	1,344	1,479
Q1 2006	91	1,271	1,362
Q12007	84	1,109	1,193
Three previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	80	1,215	1295
Q1 2002	85	1,168	1,253
Q1 2003	87	1,053	1,140
Q1 2004	121	1,190	1,311
Q1 2005	95	1,021	1,116
Q1 2006	87	907	994
Q12007	66	871	937
Four previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	43	881	924
Q1 2002	72	931	1,003
Q1 2003	71	838	909
Q1 2004	86	950	1,036
Q1 2005	77	894	971
Q1 2006	62	833	895
Q1 2007	64	687	751
Five previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	39	726	765
Q1 2002	36	741	777
Q1 2003	39	739	778
Q1 2004	61	783	844
Q1 2005	41	708	749
Q1 2006	55	709	764
Q1 2007	48	605	653
Six previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	18	588	606
Q1 2002	28	635	663
Q1 2003	29	609	638
Q1 2004	57	676	733
Q1 2005	40	586	626
Q1 2006	34	544	578
Q1 2007	42	539	581
Seven previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	20	451	471
Q1 2002	22	504	526
Q1 2003	25	474	499
Q1 2004	34	523	557
Q1 2005	34	517	551
Q1 2006	41	492	533
Q1 2007	39	434	473
Eight previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	12	387	399
Q1 2002	17	397	414
Q1 2003	20	408	428

Adult offenders discharged from custody in the first quarter of each year, number of previous custodial sentence and gender, 2000, 2002-2007

	Number of offenders		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*
Q1 2004	30	471	501
Q1 2005	19	417	436
Q1 2006	25	405	430
Q1 2007	18	341	359
Nine previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	6	307	313
Q1 2002	13	283	296
Q1 2003	19	329	348
Q1 2004	16	393	409
Q1 2005	23	318	341
Q1 2006	29	326	355
Q1 2007	23	292	315
More than nine previous custodial sentences			
Q1 2000	24	1,160	1,184
Q1 2002	42	1,409	1,451
Q1 2003	54	1,393	1,447
Q1 2004	73	1,711	1,784
Q1 2005	90	1,720	1,810
Q1 2006	95	1,794	1,889
Q1 2007	106	1,736	1,842
Total			
Q1 2000	1,184	14,533	15,717
Q1 2002	1,193	14,372	15,565
Q1 2003	1,153	13,193	14,346
Q1 2004	1,401	14,348	15,749
Q1 2005	1,241	13,338	14,579
Q1 2006	1,199	13,165	14,364
Q1 2007	1,028	11,782	12,810

In 2007, there were nearly 136,000 persons sentenced to custody (immediate and suspended), the highest in a decade. This was an increase of 4.9 per cent. from 2006 and 39.6 per cent. from 1997.

This growth reflects increased use of immediate custody in the first half of the decade and in recent years growing numbers of suspended sentence orders (introduced in April 2005 for those aged 18 or over) which have more than compensated for the decline in the number of immediate custodial sentences.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to his Department's second consultation on the voting rights of prisoners. [310966]

Mr. Straw: The second stage consultation on the voting rights of convicted prisoners closed on 29 September. We are carefully analysing the responses to the consultation. A detailed analysis of the replies to the second stage consultation—including a breakdown of respondents—will be available upon publication of the Government's response.

Prisons: Parking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons in England and Wales provide *(a)* free parking and *(b)* charged parking for (i) disabled and (ii) other visitors. [310959]

Mr. Straw: Parking for all visitors at those prisons which have car parking facilities is free.

Details on which prisons provide parking places for disabled and other visitors is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs as this would involve approaching each prison across England and Wales.

Privacy: Impact Assessments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department issues guidance to other Government Departments on the circumstances in which privacy impact assessments are *(a)* required and *(b)* encouraged. [312292]

Mr. Wills: The report of the Cabinet Secretary's Review of Data Handling Procedures, published in June 2008, mandated that all Government Departments carry out privacy impact assessments (PIAs) when introducing new policies or processes involving the use of personal data. Each Department is responsible for implementing an appropriate process to undertake these assessments, taking into account the nature of their business and existing procedures.

The Ministry of Justice has not issued any guidance to Departments, but the Information Commissioner's Office has published helpful guidance on PIAs which we would expect Government Departments to consult. Earlier this month, Government published the Protecting Government Information report, which noted that 270 PIAs are now complete or under way across Government Departments.

Public Sector: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what grounds a public body may make a request under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information rules. [312185]

Mr. Wills: Under the Regulations on the Re-use of Public Sector Information (S.I. 2005 No. 1515) public bodies can make a request for the reuse of public sector information under the same conditions as any other reuser.

Rape

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Thames Valley Police's rape awareness campaign. [310223]

Claire Ward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Tynemouth (Mr. Campbell) on 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 268W.

Red Hook Project

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the US authorities on the Red Hook Project; and whether he plans to introduce such a project. [311943]

Claire Ward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor visited the Red Hook Community Justice Centre in February 2008. Recent discussions were held with the US Attorney-General in October 2009.

The North Liverpool Community Justice Centre was directly modelled on the Red Hook approach and opened in September 2005. The lessons learned from North Liverpool form the basis of the Government's policy on Community Justice Teams which are being introduced in 30 local authority areas across England and Wales.

Reparation by Offenders

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the further use of restorative justice schemes in respect of young people. [311944]

Maria Eagle: Restorative justice is already available for use in a wide variety of circumstances in the youth justice system, both out-of-court and in community sentences. National Standards for Youth Justice Services state that the providers of youth justice services must maximise victim involvement through a restorative justice strategy. In addition the Youth Restorative Disposal is currently being piloted and independently evaluated and a decision will be made on the future of the scheme once the evaluation is completed.

Road Traffic Offences: Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average fine was imposed for each type of *(a)* summary non-motoring offence, *(b)* summary motoring offence and *(c)* indictable offence in 2008. [310965]

Mr. Straw: Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The average fine imposed at all courts by type of offence, England and Wales, 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table:

Average fine amounts imposed at all courts by type of offence, England and Wales, 2007

All offenders[1]	*Average amount (£)*
Indictable offences	
Violence against the person	237
Sexual offences	285
Burglary	161
Robbery	73
Theft and handling stolen goods	105
Fraud and forgery	286
Criminal damage	126
Drug offences	112
Other (excluding motoring offences)	1,159
Motoring offences	319
Total	428
Summary offences	
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)	130
Summary motoring offences	175
Total	158
All offences	172

[1] Includes 'other' offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Standards Board for England: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on the Standards Board for England: finance, what the budget is of the Adjudication Panel for England in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [311826]

Bridget Prentice: The direct budget for the Adjudication Panel for England[1] for 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 is £306,275. This excludes all overhead costs—such as Estates, IT, Finance, Policy. These are budgeted for separately within the overall Tribunals Service management structure.

The budget for 2010-11 is not yet finalised. However, it is expected to be at a similar level to 2009-10, adjusted for inflation.

[1] From 18 January 2010 the Adjudication Panel for England has moved into the General Regulatory Chamber and become the First-tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England).

Voting Methods

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to his Department's consultation on weekend voting. [310967]

Mr. Straw: The Government's response to the Election Day: Weekend Voting consultation will be published shortly. The responses to the consultation reveal that there is a wide range of views on whether weekend voting would have a positive impact on turnout.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentences for each type of offence were handed down to young offenders in 2009. [313021]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the following table.

Total sentences handed down to young offenders (10 to 17) for each type of offence, 2007

	10 to 17	*18 to 20*
Violence against the person	7,689	7,620
Sexual offences	532	410
Burglary	6,127	3,978
Robbery	4,115	1,812

Total sentences handed down to young offenders (10 to 17) for each type of offence, 2007

	10 to 17	18 to 20
Theft and handling stolen goods	18,211	12,669
Fraud and forgery	674	1,437
Criminal damage	3,623	2,132
Drug offences	5,263	6,691
Other (excluding motoring offences)	4,176	7,130
Motoring offences	413	1,010
All indictable offences	50,823	44,889
Summary non-motoring offences	36,712	49,553
Summary motoring offences	9,852	45,834
All summary offences	46,564	95,387
All offences	97,387	140,276

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Sentencing Statistics 2008 will be published on 28 January 2010. Data for 2008 will not be available until after this date.

These data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Youth Custody

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles sentenced to a custodial sentence in the last year for which information is available had served more than three previous custodial sentences. [310962]

Mr. Straw: In 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 529 occasions when juvenile offenders were given immediate custodial sentences for indictable or triable-either-way offences in England and Wales having received more than three previous custodial sentences.

The figure represents a further breakdown of the statistics published in Table 6.8 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2007' which can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

The 2008 edition of 'Sentencing Statistics' will be published on 28 January 2010.

This figure has been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figure is provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Youth Justice Board

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for [illegible] what the policy of the Youth Justice Board is on access by former employees to *(a)* laptops, *(b)* emails, *(c)* electronic files and *(d)* information systems operated by the Board. [312510]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board's (YJB) information and communication technology (ICT) policy for leavers states that former

> "employees and all other personnel leaving the YJB are required before their last working day, to:
>
> Return all YJB equipment on loan to them to their line manager
>
> Return hard storage material such as CDs, DVDs and USB memory sticks to their line manager
>
> Return paper files, document passwords and office passes to their line manager
>
> Delete unwanted files and e-mails from their desktop PC, laptop PC, BlackBerry or any other storage device
>
> Transfer remaining required files and e-mails to their line manager or nominated colleague."

They should not have access to laptops, e-mails, electronic files or internal information systems operated or owned by the YJB, once they have left the employment of the YJB.

The policy and YJB staff handbook also state that former employees are under an obligation to ensure they return any property or equipment belonging to the YJB.

Former YJB employees who subsequently work with or for a youth offending team or secure establishment may be given access to external information systems run by the YJB, but they would not have any access to internal information systems.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 26 January 2010

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report,* column 373W, on Olympic Games 2012: human trafficking, what progress she has made in developing a plan for action to deter human traffickers from taking advantage of the London 2012 Olympics. [312016]

Tessa Jowell: Major sporting events can be a magnet for the global sex and trafficking industry; this is wholly unacceptable. I am determined that traffickers will not exploit London 2012. My officials have been working with the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police Service on this issue and collectively we are developing a comprehensive plan of action which will build on the considerable expertise the UK has in tackling human trafficking.

Tackling this issue is one of my top priorities. Next month when I attend the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic winter games in Vancouver I will be meeting with key representatives from the agencies responsible for tackling human trafficking and NGO support groups. Ahead of my visit to Vancouver I plan to visit Gatwick airport to view the UK multi-agency response to see how the police, UK Border Force, local social services and NGOs work in partnership to identify and target potential victims of trafficking.

I will ensure that the All-Party Trafficking of Women and Children group receives an update on lessons learned when I return from Vancouver next month.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bars

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report,* columns 825-26W, on bars, (1) what the existing provision on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate is for staff of the House and hon. Members; what the aggregate revenue accrued for Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and the Bellamy's Club Room was in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the amount of space required to operate a nursery for the children of staff of hon. Members and of the House; [311890]

(2) which bars available on the House of Commons estate *(a)* House of Commons and *(b)* hon. Members' staff may use. [312072]

Nick Harvey: Bars on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate currently available to staff of the House (all grades) and Members' staff are:

Bellamy's Bar (Monday to Thursday 12.00 to 23.00 or rise of House, whichever is the earlier, but not before 22.00) with up to two guests.

Moncrieff s Café Bar (Monday to Tuesday 09.00 to 20.00; Wednesday to Thursday 09.00 to 22.00 or rise of House, whichever is the later; Friday 09.00 to 16.00) with up to three guests.

Additionally, senior staff of the House of Commons may use the following bar facilities:

Strangers' Bar (Monday to Wednesday 12.00 to 23.00 or rise of House, whichever is the later; Thursday 12.00 to 22.00; Friday 12.00 to 15.15 or rise of House, whichever is the later). Staff grade A2 and above may take in up to three guests; Staff Grade B may not take in guests.

June to July only: Terrace Pavilion Bar (open 13.00 to 23.00 Monday to Wednesday). Access as for Strangers' Bar.

Pugin Room (bar service open Monday to Tuesday 11.00 to 15.00 and 17.30 to midnight or 15 minutes after the rise of House, whichever is the earlier; Wednesday 11.00 to 15.00 and 17.30 to 23.00; Thursday 11.00 to 15.00 and 17.30 to 22.00; closed Fridays). Open to staff grade A2 and above with up to three guests.

Members and their guests have access to all the bar facilities listed above. Also, the Members' Smoking Room is provided for the exclusive use of Members of Parliament (Monday to Tuesday 14.00 to 17.00 and 18.00 to midnight; Wednesday 14.00 to 17.00 and 18.00 to 23.00; Thursday 13.00 to 17.00 and 18.00 to 19.00; closed Fridays).

The following bars are provided elsewhere on the parliamentary estate for all parliamentary pass holders, including Members, their staff and all staff of the House of Commons:

Sports and Social Club bar 12.00 to 23.00 Monday to Friday (sitting weeks) and at reduced time, depending on the level of trade, during recess.

Lords Bar (Monday to Thursday 10.30 to 21.00; Friday 10.30 to 19.30) with up to two guests.

The aggregate income for Bellamy's Bar, Astor Suite and Bellamy's Club Room was £216,000 in 2008-09, the last full 12-month period for which figures are available. However, given the operating costs of the facility and the expectation that some of the banqueting business will take up spare capacity elsewhere, the overall financial impact of the closure is expected to be minimal.

House of Commons officials consulted with a number of child care experts on space requirements for a nursery which would comply with Ofsted regulations. They advised that the space requirement for children of different ages is as follows: under two years—3.7 sq metres; two years—2.8 sq metres; three to seven years—2.3 sq metres, and in addition certain other facilities need to be provided, such as toilets, a nappy changing area, kitchen, laundry and staff room.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 825-26W, on bars, what advice the House of Commons Commission received from fire safety officers on the siting of a nursery on the parliamentary estate in the area currently used by Bellamy's Bar, the Bellamy's Club Room and the Astor Suite; and if he will make a statement. [311892]

Nick Harvey: The site was identified as being suitable in all respects including health and safety, and the advice from fire safety officers will be sought during the design process and regulations will be complied with.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 959W, on bars, what plans the Commission has to make up the revenue to be foregone following the closure of Bellamy's Bar. [312366]

Nick Harvey: The revenue from Bellamy's bar is insufficient to cover purchasing costs of the goods sold and the cost of staff directly employed in that venue. Management will be working closely with affected staff and their trade union representatives to redeploy resources to other areas when the bar closes. Provided this is achieved, the closure of Bellamy's Bar will represent a net saving to the House.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General how many days on average were taken by the Crown Prosecution Service in each area to provide advice to the police on charges for offences of *(a)* rape, *(b)* domestic violence and *(c)* violent crime in the latest period for which figures are available. [312879]

The Solicitor-General: CPS data captured on its case management system (CMS) show that for the 12-month period from January 2009 to December 2009:

the average number of calendar days taken to reach the decision to charge in rape cases was 27.1 days

the average number of calendar days taken to reach the decision to charge in domestic violence cases was 4 7 days

the average number of calendar days taken to reach the decision to charge in all cases was 8.3 days

Whereas it is possible to disaggregate pre-charge decision data in rape and domestic violence cases, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of pre-charge decision data for violent crime as a discrete offence category from within CMS. These data could only be obtained by analysis of case files at disproportionate cost.

Under Statutory Charging arrangements the police refer cases to the CPS for investigative advice or a charging decision. In cases where a file is submitted to the CPS for advice or where there is insufficient evidence to bring a charge at the first referral, the prosecutor will advise the police officer on the further evidence to be gathered. Once this further evidence has been gathered the officer will return the case to the CPS in order for a charging decision to be made.

CMS data reports the average number of calendar days that has elapsed since the first decision was sought from the police, to the date in which the last decision made was to charge or proceed to some other outcome. The CMS last decision made reports include all cases where a decision to charge was made on the same day as the request from the police, either by CPS Direct (an out of hours telephone service); by way of face to face advice; or by local telephone advice. They also include all those cases where the police were required to submit further evidence prior to a decision to charge being made; and those more complex cases where detailed written advice was provided to the police

The system is unable to separately record the timeliness of those cases that were subject to advice and further work before a charge decision was made and recorded as the last decision.

A breakdown of the figures for each area has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Crown Prosecution Service: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General on what criteria bonus payments for travelling to work during the severe weather were made to Crown Prosecution Service staff in 2009. [312167]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS London Board took a decision to award a special bonus to staff who worked on 2 February 2009, a day when the vast majority of the transport network in London shut down. The payments were made in recognition of the fact that a limited number of staff were able to attend, to undertake duties which would ordinarily have been shared across the entire work force. The commitment of these members of staff helped to ensure that prosecution deadlines were met, cases were prepared for court and essential courts were covered.

The payments in London were made in accordance with a Special Bonus Scheme that was being piloted in a limited number of areas within the CPS. No other areas made payments relating to severe weather in 2009, and the overall Special Bonus Scheme was suspended in April 2009. No subsequent payments have been made under this scheme.

Dynamic Decisions Capital Management

Jim Cousins: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the investigation of Dynamic Decisions Capital Management undertaken by the Serious Fraud Office has been concluded. [313119]

The Solicitor-General: On 12 November 2009 the SFO announced that following complaints received about the investment activities of Dynamic Decisions Capital Management Ltd., an investigation had been opened. It would be inappropriate to make further comment.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent representations he has received on the level of contribution from central Government towards church repairs. [313296]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Archbishops' Council receives regular representations on the growing cost of church and cathedral fabric repairs and General Synod will shortly consider the increasing challenge of realising the huge potential of church buildings while dealing with this financial burden.

The Church is grateful for existing grant schemes but requests more state support and I have welcomed the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that cathedrals should receive direct funding from Government, 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 422. I also share the hon. Lady's view that parish churches, too, need greater support and I suggest that the most immediate aim should be to ensure the extension beyond 2011 of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme.

Religious Buildings: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what assessment he has made of the effects of recent changes to funding of English Heritage grants on churches and cathedrals applying for grants for repairs; and if he will make a statement. [312919]

Sir Stuart Bell: As far as I am aware, the changes relate to cathedrals but not to churches.

Although its ring-fenced cathedral repair grant scheme was ended at the end of the 2009-10 financial year, English Heritage has made clear that cathedrals are still able to apply for funding under its other grant schemes. Indeed, Lincoln cathedral was awarded £250,000 last month for major fabric repairs.

We are, of course, extremely grateful for all English Heritage's financial support to date but may I add, by way of a statement, that the church also warmly welcomes the recommendation from the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee that cathedrals should receive direct funding from Government. Looking after cathedral and church buildings is a huge effort but it is worthwhile given the spiritual, cultural, educational and other benefits to the whole nation.

JUSTICE

Healthy Relationships programme

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many prisons the healthy relationships offender behaviour course is offered and how many prisoners are waiting to participate on that course in each prison where it is offered. [311882]

Maria Eagle: The healthy relationships accredited offending behaviour programme is delivered in 12 prisons and waiting lists are managed by each prison. To collate, validate and provide meaningful information, and in many cases manually check records, could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Convictions: Video Recordings Act 1984

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice *(a)* how much was levied in fines, *(b)* how many custodial sentences were handed down and *(c)* what the average length was of sentences imposed following conviction under the provisions of section (i) 9, (ii) 10, (iii) 11, (iv) 12, (v) 13 and (vi) 14 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since each such section came into force. [311810]

Claire Ward: The number of offenders sentenced at all courts in England and Wales for offences under the Video Recordings Act 1984, from 1995 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following tables. Prior to 1995 data under the Video Recordings Act 1984 were held under a miscellaneous group of offences and cannot be separately identified.

Sentencing Statistics 2008 will be published on 28 January 2010.

Total custodial sentences and average custodial sentence length imposed under the Video Recordings Act 1984[1]

		1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Section 9	Suspended sentences	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	1	2	2	3	4	2
	ACSL[2]	4.0	1.5	6.5	6.0	5.9	4.5
	Number of fines	30	49	36	16	44	60
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	10,380	28,060	7,555	7,830	13,835	28,660
Section 10	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Immediate custody	1	4	3	2	8	7
	ACSL	2.0	3.3	4.0	2.0	2.4	3.4
	Number of fines	52	46	53	47	44	52
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	14,340	16,550	15,830	14,710	12,570	11,420
Section 11	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	1	0	1	0	0	0
	ACSL	4.0	—	1.9	—	—	—
	Number of fines	7	17	15	18	33	16
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	4,400	6,405	7,780	7,925	26,350	16,450

Total custodial sentences and average custodial sentence length imposed under the Video Recordings Act 1984[1]

		1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Section 12	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Number of fines	2	1	0	0	0	0
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	350	250	—	—	—	—
Section 13	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Number of fines	1	1	0	1	1	3
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	200	70	—	350	1,000	800
Section 14	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Number of fines	1	0	1	1	0	1
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	25	—	4,000	1,250	—	100

		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Section 9	Suspended sentences	0	0	1	0	0	2	2
	Immediate custody	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
	ACSL[2]	3.0	—	—	4.0	6.0	—	—
	Number of fines	47	48	37	21	21	5	11
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	15,250	18,020	8,925	9,420	7,155	750	5,735
Section 10	Suspended sentences	2	1	1	1	3	5	5
	Immediate custody	6	2	4	4	7	15	24
	ACSL	2.3	9.5	5.0	5.3	4.0	3.0	2.5
	Number of fines	40	44	21	24	20	23	9
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	22,060	26,785	17,195	15,410	8,579	14,095	11,325
Section 11	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Number of fines	9	12	14	6	8	8	0
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	12,400	12,950	12,900	4,650	3,910	9,950	—
Section 12	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Immediate custody	2	0	1	0	0	3	1
	ACSL	0.7	—	2.0	—	—	1.6	6.0
	Number of fines	5	4	8	33	9	2	4
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	3,550	2,300	1,325	25,495	2,900	750	2,900
Section 13	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Number of fines	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	2,350	—	—	—	—	—	—
Section 14	Suspended sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Immediate custody	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	ACSL	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	—
	Number of fines	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	—	—	—	300	0	—	—

[1] Video Recording Act 1984, sections 9, 10, 111, 12, 13, 14.

[2] ACSL (months) excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Refers only to immediate custody.

Notes:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice. Ref: PQ—311810, 18 January 2010

Coroners: Northern Ireland

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent steps have been taken to improve the service provided by the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland; [312697]

(2) what steps he plans to take to reduce delays in inquests held by the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland. [312698]

Bridget Prentice: The Coroners Rules in Northern Ireland require that where an inquest is necessary it must be held as soon as is practicable after the coroner has been notified of the death.

The Coroners Service for Northern Ireland was extensively reorganised in 2006. The following changes have been introduced with the objective of improving service delivery:

1. A full-time coronial judiciary was established under a senior coroner, replacing the previous structure which largely depended on part-time coroners.

2. A High Court judge was assigned to be the presiding judge for the Coroners Service.

3. A medical officer was appointed to provide independent medical advice to the coroners.

4. Legal officers were appointed to support the coroners in the handling of complex cases.

5. Administrative support to the coroners was improved, including the appointment of coroners' liaison officers whose role is to liaise with bereaved families to provide information and support throughout the coroner's investigation.

6. An improved IT system was introduced which allows cases to be tracked effectively.

7. Protocols have been agreed with partner agencies, including the State Pathology Department and PSNI (who investigate deaths on behalf of the coroners in Northern Ireland), setting targets for the production of reports.

The Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration recently reported favourably on the improvements made in the Coroners Service (Coroners Service for Northern Ireland: A follow-up review of the administrative systems supporting bereaved families provided by the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland—November 2009).

Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many recovery notices have been made under section 7A of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995; and how much compensation has been so recovered. [312511]

Claire Ward: There have been no recovery notices made under section 7A of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995 as this section is un-commenced.

Custodial Treatment

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners who received indeterminate sentences for public protection at each tariff length have been received into custody in each month since the sentence was introduced; [311888]

(2) how many indeterminate sentences for public protection have been handed down for each type of offence in each month since December 2008. [311965]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is currently being collated by officials in the National Offender Management Service. I will write to the hon. Member once this work is complete and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Cycling: Fines

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines for cycling on pavements have been issued in each local highway authority area in each of the last five years. [312418]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the following table.

Sentencing Statistics 2008 will be published on 28 January 2010.

The figures which we have provided are shown by police force area and not by local highway authority, because the courts proceeding database does not hold this information.

Total fines for cycling[1] on pavements, 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	53	102	71	56	83
Bedfordshire	11	16	23	15	20

Total fines for cycling[1] on pavements, 2003-07

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cambridgeshire	33	10	10	39	31
Cheshire	4	9	10	12	19
City of London	21	26	12	12	10
Cleveland	7	17	23	30	18
Cumbria	38	45	59	53	68
Derbyshire	49	45	40	21	42
Devon and Cornwall	61	62	37	30	40
Dorset	3	6	6	18	30
Durham	17	21	32	16	51
Essex	49	42	53	37	66
Gloucestershire	3	5	8	4	10
Greater Manchester	299	220	186	166	81
Hampshire	59	50	39	39	40
Hertfordshire	18	34	23	16	25
Humberside	51	20	29	30	29
Kent	31	33	26	24	35
Lancashire	15	9	14	6	8
Leicestershire	37	25	26	18	13
Lincolnshire	18	22	5	22	26
Merseyside	77	107	76	72	84
Metropolitan Police	577	564	445	199	123
Norfolk	16	16	15	5	16
North Yorkshire	11	14	25	20	22
Northamptonshire	2	5	5	9	16
Northumbria	53	57	72	59	88
Nottinghamshire	17	11	7	8	22
South Yorkshire	50	38	63	54	50
Staffordshire	10	19	19	15	20
Suffolk	15	18	10	3	4
Surrey	50	53	39	20	70
Sussex	14	18	16	17	16
Thames Valley	102	99	99	81	53
Warwickshire	5	12	7	3	6
West Mercia	15	31	20	39	26
West Midlands	111	102	120	104	111
West Yorkshire	94	64	79	101	74
Wiltshire	16	10	11	6	7
Dyfed-Powys	14	11	11	10	15
Gwent	12	15	14	7	12
North Wales	11	19	16	26	7
South Wales	47	95	41	61	57
Total	2,196	2,197	1,942	1,583	1,644

Note:

The following offences have been included in the answer but they may not all relate solely to cycling on pavement

(1). Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984

—s.25(5) By moving vehicle: Failing to accord precedence to foot passengers
—s.25(5) offences connected with pedal cycles: in relation to pedestrian crossing
—Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 S.17(4) Offences connected with pedal cycles
—Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 S.25(5) - By moving vehicles: failing to accord precedence to foot passengers
—Pelican Pedestrian crossing Regulations and General directions 1987 Regs 12-14 and 16-19 Failing to observe regulations
—Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regs 1982 Reg 15—offences connected with pedal cycles
—Highway Act 1835 S.72—Pedal cycles—riding on footpath
—Highway Act 1835 S.78—Pedal cycles—riding to common danger
—Metropolitan Police Act 1839S.54(7)—riding to common danger

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services. Ministry of Justice

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

These data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313229]

Mr. Wills: Government Departments and agencies and non-departmental public bodies that have Crown status, make most of their information available for free re-use under the PSI Click-Use Licence. Government trading funds, such as Her Majesty's Land Registry, for which I have ministerial responsibility, are able under their trading fund status to charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs. This covers information and its supply provided to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals. In common with other Government policy, some information is sold as priced publications.

Driving Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of driving without insurance in each justice administrative area in each year since 1997. [312785]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third-party risks, by police force area, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for 'using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks', by police force area, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	5,690	5,918	4,983	5,739	4,746	5,447	5,886	6,364	5,455	4,662	3,744
Bedfordshire	2,125	2,159	1,521	1,456	1,930	2,129	2,344	2,276	2,412	2,190	1,967
Cambridgeshire	1,462	1,562	1,329	1,366	1,130	1,276	1,498	1,618	1,802	2,485	1,769
Cheshire	2,374	2,497	2,508	2,696	2,547	2,973	3,611	3,804	2,769	2,688	3,391
City of London	1,241	1,305	1,040	683	902	1,133	1,395	922	852	974	797
Cleveland	1,636	1,744	1,760	2,272	2,197	2,653	2,298	3,359	2,505	2,323	1,556
Cumbria	1,783	1,656	1,452	1,523	1,454	1,484	1,584	1,449	1,368	1,406	1,563
Derbyshire	2,291	2,168	2,117	2,393	2,727	2,826	3,041	3,785	3,862	2,784	3,476
Devon and Cornwall	3,299	2,630	2,980	4,025	3,760	4,031	4,134	4,042	3,510	4,048	3,724
Dorset	2,072	1,687	1,858	2,346	1,513	1,711	2,086	2,005	2,321	2,123	1,822
Durham	1,647	1,819	2,954	2,834	2,728	2,729	2,454	2,255	1,919	1,572	1,713
Essex	3,242	3,239	3,483	3,752	3,647	3,597	3,536	3,610	3,790	3,851	4,239
Gloucestershire	1,209	1,806	1 757	[illegible]	1,351	1,115	1,674	1,606	1,365	1,256	1,453
Greater Manchester	13,673	14,063	15,611	[illegible]	17,506	18,472	20,694	18,836	16,441	15,163	11,747
Hampshire	4,868	4,977	5,166	4,758	4,855	5,121	5,144	5,007	4,188	3,852	3,775
Hertfordshire	1,442	1,792	1,694	2,153	2,427	2,932	3,690	4,061	4,406	4,774	3,746
Humberside	1,932	1,927	2,329	2,423	2,255	2,104	2,550	2,508	2,537	3,072	1,835
Kent	3,541	3,544	3,004	4,868	5,473	6,543	5,700	6,098	5,064	5,281	4,872
Lancashire	8,182	7,661	6,449	7,487	6,240	6,863	8,906	6,642	7,619	6,661	6,443
Leicestershire	4,047	4,299	4,843	4,282	4,321	4,513	5,349	5,376	3,573	3,137	2,199
Lincolnshire	2,030	2,409	2,567	2,141	1,896	1,814	2,574	3,374	2,799	2,937	2,199
Merseyside	5,162	4,786	4,417	4,998	4,930	5,963	7,360	7,208	5,967	4,449	5,714
Metropolitan Police	17,698	15,531	13,844	13,193	14,449	17,674	20,970	25,343	25,520	26,796	29,173
Norfolk	2,356	2,102	2,017	1,803	1,607	1,904	2,619	2,331	2,132	2,156	1,951
North Yorkshire	1,736	1,616	1,615	1,589	1,247	1,216	1,342	1,536	1,674	1,640	1,832
Northamptonshire	2,990	2,583	2,951	2,057	908	506	2,336	3,478	2,922	2,584	1,906
Northumbria	4,929	4,867	5,638	5,957	5,534	5,623	5,901	5,587	6,091	5,884	4,979
Nottinghamshire	3,240	3,540	2,815	3,062	3,066	2,888	3,796	4,347	3,604	3,132	3,372
South Yorkshire	3,823	4,312	4,573	4,826	5,888	5,739	5,686	5,230	5,359	5,162	4,044
Staffordshire	3,209	3,255	3,403	3,986	2,658	3,526	3,794	4,222	4,230	4,001	3,241
Suffolk	1,467	1,561	1,649	1,429	1,547	1,683	2,225	2,247	1,854	1,686	1,365
Surrey	1,532	1,424	1,392	1,611	1,731	1,992	1,853	1,949	1,924	1,942	3,183
Sussex	3,207	2,919	2,757	2,491	2,521	2,275	2,154	2,267	2,100	2,400	2,679
Thames Valley	3,774	3,959	4,783	4,774	4,152	4,892	6,558	6,346	5,581	5,638	5,195
Warwickshire	1,641	1,532	1,341	1,506	1,631	1,528	1,799	2,542	2,230	2,357	1,898
West Mercia	3,176	3,893	3,647	3,947	3,992	4,074	4,292	4,571	4,293	4,537	3,603
West Midlands	10,843	11,214	9,369	10,535	10,622	14,199	17,249	19,314	17,715	15,936	11,047
West Yorkshire	9,161	8,856	9,688	9,383	9,841	8,008	10,745	13,964	11,637	10,243	7,156
Wiltshire	1,502	1,814	1,592	1,638	2,108	2,062	1,983	1,875	1,936	2,071	1,426
Dyfed-Powys	1,327	1,350	1,399	1,432	1,205	1,553	1,503	1,059	1,293	1,234	1,304
Gwent	1,899	2,159	2,162	2,326	2,276	2,188	1,916	1,527	1,514	1,531	1,179
North Wales	2,157	2,087	1,981	1,814	1,453	1,898	3,040	3,351	2,279	3,187	2,258
South Wales	6,269	6,808	6,190	6,303	5,371	6,320	6,639	7,358	6,013	5,671	4,621

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for 'using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks', by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total	162,504	163,039	160,588	167,105	164,342	179,177	205,908	216,649	198,425	191,476	171,156

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Driving Offences: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* hit and run accidents, *(b)* hit and run accidents in which the driver did not have insurance and *(c)* hit and run drivers taken to court there were in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each of the last three years. [312199]

Claire Ward: Data on the number of reported hit and run personal injury road accidents in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency provided by the Department for Transport (DfT) from 2005 to 2008 are shown in table 1. The DfT does not collect information centrally on uninsured drivers involved in hit and run accidents.

Information available on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database cannot identify those defendants, proceeded against for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third-party risks that have been involved in a hit and run accident.

The number of persons 'proceeded against at magistrates' courts for the offence of 'failing to stop after an accident' in the west midlands police force area, from 2005 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table 2.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level, therefore information is given for the west midlands police force area in which the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency is located.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Table 1: Reported hit and run personal injury road accidents in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency[1]*, 2005-08*

	Accidents (number)
2005	186
2006	150
2007	159
2008	149

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries. *Source:* Department for Transport.

Table 2: Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of failing to stop after an accident[1, 2, 3] *in the west midlands police force area, from 2003-07*[4, 5]

Offence description	*Statute*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Failing to stop after accident	Road Traffic Act 1988 S.170(4)	411	411	362

[1] Not all hit and run incidents are pursued through the courts—minor ones in particular may not involve police attendance and may not be reported to the police by the injured party.

[2] "Hit and run" usually refers to a collision in which someone was injured or killed. The offence of failure to stop is also committed if there has only been damage but such incidents cannot be distinguished from those involving injury or death.

[3] A person involved in a hit and run incident may be convicted of a more serious offence such as dangerous driving.

[4] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Interpreters

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by *(a)* HM Courts Service and *(b)* his Department in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency on interpreters for (A) suspects, (B) charged individuals and (C) victims of crime who are unable to speak English in each of the last three years. [312198]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is set out as follows.

Expenditure on interpreters in England and Wales by the Department and its agencies

The expenditure for financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are shown in the following table:

		To nearest £000
	2008-09	*2007-08*
Ministry of Justice HQ	26	19
HM Courts Service (HMCS)	638	704
HMCS Crown Courts paid from Central Fund Budget	4,503	4,034
Tribunals Service	5,283	6,126
Office of the Public Guardian	40	40
National Offenders Management Service[1]	966	868
Total	11,456	11,791

[1] This figure includes translation costs as well as interpretation costs. The amounts are separately recorded and can be disaggregated only at disproportionate costs.

The information in the table excludes the following expenditure:

It is not possible to separately identify expenditure on interpreters by magistrates courts from other magistrates costs financed from the central fund budget without incurring the disproportionate cost of examining every transaction, the supporting records for which are held locally. Sample exercises have been undertaken in the past to estimate the proportion of magistrates' expenditure that relates to interpreters but they have yielded inconsistent results.

The NOMS figure excludes expenditure by the National Probation Service which is held locally by 42 probation boards and trusts who use separate and different accounting systems. Information could be determined only at disproportionate cost through examination of local records.

Expenditure on interpreters in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency by the Department and its agencies

Expenditure by Her Majesty's Courts Service for interpreters in the Crown Courts in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency was £155,700 in 2007-08 and £128,600 in 2008-09. This expenditure was incurred by Birmingham Crown Court which is the only Crown Court falling within the constituency of Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath.

Suspects, charged individuals and victims

Her Majesty's Courts Service meets interpreters' costs for victims, which are provided above. The police meet interpreters' costs for suspects and charged individuals. Police costs are funded by the Home Office.

Monarchy: Succession

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the advice of the Attorney-General on the rights of illegitimate children in a succession to the Crown *(a)* was requested prior to and *(b)* has been requested since the deposition in February 1981 of the UK's interpretative declaration of articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born out of Wedlock. [312537]

Claire Ward: By long-standing convention, observed by successive Administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers have advised (or have not advised) on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside Government without their authority.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations he *(a)* has consulted and *(b)* plans to consult regarding the proposed reduction in the number of staff at the National Offender Management Service headquarters. [312571]

Maria Eagle: All trade union groups have been, and will continue to be, informed about and consulted on planned reductions to staffing levels in National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters through the established NOMS trade union engagement structures.

Office for Legal Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance has been issued to the Legal Complaints Service on the application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 to those of its staff who are transferring to the Office for Legal Complaints; [313404]

(2) whether the transfer of operations of the Legal Complaints Service to the Office for Legal Complaints has resulted in staff redundancies. [313405]

Bridget Prentice: The Office for Legal Complaints will administer the Legal Ombudsman Scheme which will provide a single point of entry with consistent handling of all consumer complaints about providers of regulated legal services. This will replace the existing complaints handling regime with a new system and therefore the operation of the Legal Complaints Service will not transfer to the Office for Legal Complaints.

To date no decisions have been made to transfer staff. The Law Society has commenced legal proceedings to seek clarification on the application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. The decision of the court will be a matter of public record.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff work at the Office for Legal Complaints; and what the job description is for each post held by such staff. [313406]

Bridget Prentice: At present the OLC has four permanent members of staff one of whom is Adam Sampson who formally took up post as Chief Ombudsman and Chief Executive on 1 July 2009. The roles of the other three permanent employees are Head of External Affairs, Board Secretary and Head of Human Resources. In addition, the OLC has two employees on fixed term contracts: the interim Chief Operation Officer and an administrator. This team is supported by nine agency staff employed on an interim basis.

Job descriptions for each post have been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse has been of establishing the Office for Legal Complaints; and whether he expects further such costs to be incurred. [313407]

Bridget Prentice: The budgeted cost of establishing the Office for Legal Complaints is £15.1 million. To date £7 million has been expended or committed. However, the costs of establishing the Office for Legal Complaints will be recouped through a levy on the legal professions, and therefore, ultimately, there will be no cost to the public purse.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Office for Legal Complaints to begin to accept complaint cases for consideration. [313408]

Bridget Prentice: I am pleased to say that the Office for Legal Complaints is on course to accept complaint cases for consideration under its Legal Ombudsman scheme by late 2010.

Prison Service and Probation Service

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure equality of opportunity in respect of staff on the Prison Service surplus list and Probation Service secondees in applying for vacant positions in either service. [312570]

Maria Eagle: Probation services are not part of the civil service, and their employees are not civil servants. Therefore recruitment to the National Offender Management service (NOMS)—which is a civil service agency—or any other civil service department or agency must reflect that distinction, and NOMS must follow civil service wide procedures for managing surplus staff that have been agreed with civil service trade unions.

Probation boards and trusts are employers in their own right and therefore have individual recruitment and secondment policies as well as individual policies for dealing with surplus staff which have been agreed with the probation trade unions.

Prison: Programmes and Courses

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection have *(a)* had access to and *(b)* completed (i) one or more sex offender treatment programme courses, (ii) the Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage It course and (iii) the Enhanced Thinking Skills course in each of the last five years; [311881]

(2) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection *(a)* have been assessed as needing the healthy relationships programme and *(b)* have completed the healthy relationships programme, in each prison providing the programme in each year since such programmes were introduced; [311883]

(3) how many of those prisoners serving indeterminate public protection sentences who have reached their tariff expiry date had completed *(a)* none, *(b)* one and *(c)* two or more of the offender behaviour courses specified on their sentence plans prior to the expiry of the tariff; [311884]

(4) how many prisoners serving indeterminate public protection sentences had completed *(a)* no, *(b)* one and *(c)* two or more offender behaviour courses on the most recent date for which figures are available; [311885]

(5) how many prisoners of each *(a)* age group, *(b)* sex and *(c)* ethnicity were serving indeterminate sentences for public protection on the most recent date for which figures are available. [311886]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) database on indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) prisoners holds information on IPPs currently in custody. It therefore does not include those who have been discharged, or those whose IPP sentence was subsequently quashed. Although it captures data on access to, and completions of, accredited offending behaviour programmes, it does not record the date or location of programme completions, so answers are not broken down by year or location of completion.

In 2009 NOMS rolled out the Thinking Skills programme, which will replace the Enhanced Thinking Skills programme. The following figures therefore include data for both programmes. On 19 January 2010 there were a total of 5,828 IPPs currently in custody. Of those IPPs currently in custody:

628 have had access to one or more Sex Offender Treatment programme courses;

842 have had access to the Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage It (CALM) programme;

3,509 have had access to the Enhanced Thinking Skills programme (ETS) or the Thinking Skills programme (TSP);

497 have completed one or more Sex Offender Treatment programme courses;

755 have completed the CALM programme; and

3,344 have completed the ETS or TSP programmes.

Of those IPPs currently in custody:

24 have been assessed as needing the Healthy Relationships programme; and

52 have completed the Healthy Relationships programme.

On 19 January 2010 there were a total of 2,468 IPPs who had reached their tariff expiry date. As the NOMS IPP database does not record the dates of accredited Offending Behaviour programme completions, it is not possible to determine whether the completions took place before or after tariff expiry.

Of the 2,468 post tariff IPPs currently in custody:

466 have completed no accredited Offending Behaviour programmes;

779 have completed one accredited Offending Behaviour programme; and

1,223 have completed two or more accredited Offending Behaviour programmes.

On 19 January 2010 there were a total of 5,828 IPPs currently in custody. Of those IPPs currently in custody:

1,991 have completed no accredited Offending Behaviour programmes;

1,939 have completed one accredited Offending Behaviour programme; and

1,898 have completed two or more accredited Offending Behaviour programmes.

The NOMS IPP database will not able to report on the ethnicity of IPP prisoners until June 2010. The age profile of the 5,828 IPPs in custody on 19 January 2010 is:

	IPPs
15-17 years old	23
18-20 years old	284
21-24 years old	1,176
25-29 years old	1,243
30-39 years old	1,502
40-49 years old	1,092
50-59 years old	344
60 + years old	164

The gender profile of IPPs is: male 5,673 and female 155.

Prisoners Release

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons who received indeterminate sentences for public protection and who have passed their minimum tariff date have been released in each month since the sentence was introduced; and how many people released from such sentences have subsequently been recalled in each such year. [311887]

Maria Eagle: As of 15 January 2010, the number of offenders who received indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP), who have passed their minimum tariff date and who have been released in each month since the sentence was introduced is shown in the following table.

There is nothing automatic about release on tariff expiry. After an offender sentenced to an IPP has completed his tariff, it is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether his risk of harm is such that he may be safely managed in the community. Of those prisoners who have been released, two were recalled to custody in 2007, six in 2008 and 15 in 2009.

Number of IPP prisoners past tariff who were released each month since 2005

Month of release	Number released
March 2007	1
April 2007	1
June 2007	1
July 2007	3
August 2007	1
September 2007	2
October 2007	2
January 2008	2
February 2008	1
March 2008	4
May 2008	2
June 2008	4
July 2008	1
August 2008	5
September 2008	2
October 2008	3
November 2008	4
December 2008	4
January 2009	6
February 2009	4
March 2009	1
April 2009	4
May 2009	5
June 2009	4
July 2009	6
August 2009	1
September 2009	2
October 2009	6
November 2009	7
December 2009	5
Total	94

Prisons: Budgets

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what direction he has given to each prison governor on budgets for the financial year 2009-10. [313572]

Maria Eagle: Letters of delegated authority were issued in June 2009 to each director of offender management from the chief operating officer of the National Offender Management Service. The directors of offender management then issued letters of delegated authority to prison governors in their region. Each prison governor is required to operate within the limits confirmed in the written delegations.

Probation Service: Disabled

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of the Probation Service in England and Wales who have been diagnosed with a disability are currently subject to *(a)* informal and *(b)* formal capability proceedings. [308123]

Maria Eagle: Disability is self-declared rather than diagnosed. Information on informal capability proceedings is not collated centrally as this is a local probation area management issue.

However our new Probation HR Data Warehouse does include information on formal capability proceedings and the outcomes of these. This information is currently subject to validation and will be available in early 2010.

Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been which resulted in a conviction in each of the last six months. [312457]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

Table 1 shows the number of defendants prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service whose case was completed in each of the six months ending December 2009. Case outcomes are broken down into convictions and unsuccessful outcomes, the latter figure comprising all outcomes other than a conviction, and are also expressed as a proportion of completed cases.

Table 2 shows figures for England and Wales as a whole, and for CPS North Yorkshire.

Crown Prosecution Service completed prosecutions, July to December 2009

(1) CPS national

	Convictions		Unsuccessful		
2009	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Total
July	77,571	86.2	12,382	13.8	89,953
August	66,930	86.0	10,889	14.0	77,819
September	76,583	86.1	12,335	13.9	88,918
October	71,385	86.0	11,634	14.0	83,019
November	69,274	86.0	11,301	14.0	80,575
December	62,881	85.7	10,496	14.3	73,377

(2) CPS North Yorkshire

	Convictions		Unsuccessful		
2009	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Total
July	857	87.4	124	12.6	981
August	768	89.9	86	10.1	854
September	892	88.9	111	11.1	1,003
October	856	87.7	120	12.3	976
November	834	88.6	107	11.4	941
December 09	736	88.7	94	11.3	830

Public Sector: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests made to the Office of Public Sector Information's Public Sector Information Unlocking Service beta have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* refused. [312166]

Mr. Wills: The Unlocking Service is a service to gather and assess requests for the re-use of public sector information from the Office of Public Sector Information, part of the National Archives.

57 primary requests have been accepted. Users can add comments in support of existing requests joining in to the dialogue, rather than create a new request for the same information.

A further 10 requests have been rejected. This is because they are outside the defined scope of the Unlocking Service, not relating to the re-use of public sector information or Government data.

Royal Family: Wills

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at whose request the process for the creation of a new practice for the sealing of royal wills following the death of Princess Margaret was initiated. [312449]

Bridget Prentice: No process has been initiated for the creation of a new practice for sealing royal wills following the death of the late Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon. The President of Family Division, Sir Mark Potter, has, however, initiated a review of the court practice governing non-contentious probate business in general. The review will be wide-ranging and will include consideration of the current rules and practice relating to the disclosure and publication of wills.

Working Group on Libel Law Review

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the membership is of his working group on libel law review; [313563]

(2) what the terms of reference are of his working group on libel law review; [313564]

(3) what the earliest date by which the working group on libel law review will have completed its work; and when he expects to receive the report of that working group. [313565]

Bridget Prentice: The terms of reference of the working group on libel law are:

> "to consider whether the law of libel, including the law relating to "libel tourism", in England and Wales needs reform, and if so to make recommendations as to solutions".

The membership of the group will be announced shortly. The working group has been requested to make recommendations by mid-March.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Licensing

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many exotic animal licences were granted by each London borough in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [312208]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is no licensing regime specifically for "exotic" animals, however some exotic species may be considered a danger to the public should they escape and are therefore subject to licensing under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (DWAA). The administration and enforcement of DWAA licensing is the responsibility of local authorities. Information on the number of licences issued by local authorities is not held centrally.

Dangerous Dogs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to discuss Professor Sir Patrick Bateson's report on legislation on dangerous dogs with its author. [312984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We welcome the independent inquiry and report into dog breeding by Sir Patrick Bateson. We will consider the recommendations of his report carefully and it is our intention to discuss this matter with key stakeholders during the coming months.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to redefine controls on dangerous dogs to apply to all dogs rather than specific breeds. [312985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The existing legislation applies to all dangerous dogs, not just those that are specifically banned. There are no plans to extend bans beyond the types of dogs that are currently banned.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many iPods have been bought by his Department since 2005; and at what cost. [311908]

Dan Norris: According to records held centrally DEFRA has not purchased any iPods since 2005.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessor and (ii) each of its agencies and NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each year since the inception of his Department. [309262]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is able to impose administrative financial penalties under:

the Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Measures) (Penalty Notices) Order 2008 (SI 2008/984)

the Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2163)

orders to be made under sections 93, 95, 98(2), 142 and 294 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

In each case any financial penalty recovered is to be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Receipts

In 2008, for 10 offences detected under the Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Measures) (Penalty Notices) Order 2008, the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) offered and received administrative financial penalties totalling £20,000, and for nine offences detected in 2009, the MFA has offered and received a total of £15,000.

No financial penalties have been imposed to date under the Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2009, and no orders providing for administrative financial penalties have been made under the recently enacted Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Domestic Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on the contribution of savings made as a consequence of moving from weekly to alternate weekly collections of household waste to the efficiency gains reported in annual efficiency statements. [311848]

Dan Norris: Guidance on the calculation of value for money gains is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government. As such, no guidance on this matter has been issued by DEFRA or the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's Food 2030 strategy document, what plans he has to introduce compulsory household food waste collections; and whether fixed penalty notices would be imposed in such a system. [312446]

Dan Norris: The Government support the separate collection of food waste. While Government would like to see all local authorities collecting food waste by 2020, they have not regulated, nor do they currently plan to make source-segregated food waste collection mandatory or impose fixed penalty notices on such a scheme. Food waste collection presents different issues in different contexts and so the Government prefer to keep decisions relating to it at a local level.

Furthermore, new research from DEFRA shows that 78 per cent. of people support having a separate food waste collection to enable food recycling and two-thirds of households with access to a separate food waste collection use it. Penalty notices were not used in any of the contexts studied to ensure the food waste collection scheme worked.

Fish Catches

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he made of the sustainability of fish stocks in each of the last three years. [311755]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each year the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) classifies a stock's status by comparing the amount of mature fish (the spawning stock biomass) and the rate at which the stock is exploited in comparison with agreed reference levels.

In terms of spawning stock biomass, a stock is considered to have either full reproductive capacity, being at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity or suffering reduced reproductive capacity.

In terms of the rate of fishing mortality, a stock is considered to be harvested sustainably, at risk of being harvested unsustainably or harvested unsustainably.

The following table presents the number within each category for the 47 stocks of most interest to the UK. Figures are given for 2007 to 2009.

Category	*ICES classification*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
In danger	Very low level of spawning stock biomass	8	6	5
At risk	Reduced level of spawning stock biomass	6	7	4
At risk	Full reproductive capacity but harvest rate too high	2	3	2
Healthy	Full reproductive capacity and low exploitation rate	8	9	12
Unknown	Stock status uncertain	23	22	24

Of those stocks for which the status is known with regards to the reference levels, 52 per cent. are considered to be within precautionary biomass limits and fished sustainably. The equivalent figure is 31 per cent. for all stocks across the Community[1].

[1] Communication from the Commission—Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2010 (COM(2009)224).

Flood Control: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much is planned to be spent by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* the Environment Agency on flood and coastal erosion risk management in each year from 2010-11 to 2012-13, indicating in respect of each total how much stimulus package spending brought forward from another year it (i) includes and (ii) excludes. [313348]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA expects to spend £780 million on flood and coastal erosion risk management in 2010-11. This includes expenditure by local authorities (supported by Formula Grant) and the Environment Agency (through Grant in Aid). In addition, £20 million of the original £800 million figure for 2010-11 was brought forward into 2009-10 budgets as part of the fiscal stimulation package.

Within the above, the Department has a retained budget for flood and coastal erosion risk management of £35 million for 2010-11. This will be spent taking forward recommendations within the Pitt review of the 2007 floods, and also to help communities adapt to the risk of flooding and coastal erosion.

Based on historical spending by local authorities, DEFRA estimates that its total expenditure on flooding and coastal erosion will be at least £87 million in 2010-11. However, the need for local authorities to spend more on flood and coastal erosion risk management was recognised at the last spending review and additional funding was provided as part of the overall formula grant settlement. As Formula Grant is not ring-fenced it is for individual authorities to decide how much to spend subject to limits on overall budgets and the need for investment on other priorities.

The Environment Agency's Flood Defence Grant In Aid budget for 2010-11 is £659 million in 2010-11. This figure also reflects the £20 million brought forward to 2009-10.

Budgets for 2011-12 and 2012-13 have not been set. These will be determined by the next spending review.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* the Environment Agency on flood and coastal erosion risk management in each year between 2007-08 and 2009-10, indicating in respect of each total how much stimulus package spending brought forward from another year it (i) includes and (ii) excludes. [313349]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table sets out the amount spent by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and local authorities on flood and coastal erosion risk management for the three-year period.

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total	589.8	662.15	714.9
(a) DEFRA	0	3.75	20.5
(b) Local authorities	90.0	90.0	[1]87.0
(c) Environment Agency	499.8	568.4	607.4

[1] Estimated.

(i) The figure given against Environment Agency expenditure in 2009-10 includes £20 million brought forward from 2010-11 budgets as part of the fiscal stimulation package.

(ii) Taking account of the adjustment, total expenditure is expected to be £780 million in 2010-11.

The figures at *(a)* reflect budget retained by DEFRA for the introduction of measures from 2008-09 to assist communities in adapting to future risks and work arising from the review by Sir Michael Pitt into the floods of 2007. It does not include the Flood Defence Grant in Aid allocated to the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency is funded by Flood Defence Grant in Aid from DEFRA.

Local authority spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management is supported by Formula Grant. The £87 million figure quoted for 2009-10 is an estimate of annual expenditure based on historical data prior to the current spending period. The need for local authorities to spend more on flood and coastal erosion risk management was recognised at the last spending review and additional funding was provided as part of the overall formula grant settlement. As Formula Grant is not ring-fenced it is for individual authorities to decide how much to spend subject to limits on overall budgets and the need for investment on other priorities.

Figures at *(a)* *(b)* and *(c)* for 2009-10 are provisional.

Fly-Tipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of fly-tipping. [312765]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency and local authorities are the enforcement bodies in England for waste crime, such as fly-tipping. DEFRA works closely with these bodies to develop better prevention, detection and prosecution of fly-tipping offences. In 2008-09, fly-tipping incidents dealt with by local authorities in England fell by over nine per cent. on the previous year.

In particular, DEFRA is:

funding Keep Britain Tidy to provide local authorities with support and advice on their fly-tipping prevention strategies, including training workshops for individual local authorities. Over 70 authorities will have benefited from this training programme by the end of the financial year. Keep Britain Tidy has also provided all local authorities in England with a Knowledge Bank of best practice information and case studies, backed up with anti-fly-tipping campaigning material;

funding the Environment Agency's Waste Crime Innovation Programme, which includes pilot work on new and innovative techniques for tackling fly-tipping, as well as a Landowner Partnership Programme, working with landowner organisations to tackle fly-tipping on private land;

shortly to bring in new powers allowing local authorities and the Environment Agency to seize vehicles suspected of involvement in fly-tipping more easily;

working to strengthen the waste carrier registration system and promote—through more user friendly guidance—the waste duty of care so that the law is better understood and easier for authorities to enforce.

Food: Conservation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will issue guidance to local authorities and other public bodies in respect of the purchase of endangered seafood; and if he will make a statement. [313463]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and HM Revenue and Customs enforce strict controls on the import and marketing of animals and animal products from species classified as endangered under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative has for some time been providing advice and guidance in sustainable sourcing of food, including fish, for the public sector for example by reference to the Marine Stewardship Council's Eco-label scheme and equivalent certification schemes that meet the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Public sector procurement guidance also refers to the IUCN red list as being definitive on endangered species.

In moving forward with this agenda, we are working with the Office of Government Commerce to embed into the Collaborative Food Procurement Programme best practice on sustainability and environmental awareness including the conservation status of commonly eaten fish and seafood. The aims of this programme are to encourage greater collaboration between public sector buyers to achieve efficiency cost savings and to embed the use of sustainability criteria in the contract award process for the procurement of food by the public sector.

Food: Production

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* meat, *(b)* eggs, *(c)* bread, *(d)* wheat, *(e)* fruit, *(f)* vegetables and *(g)* milk consumed which was domestically produced in each of the last three years. [313412]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Estimates of the percentage of meat, eggs, wheat, fruit, vegetables and milk consumed and which were produced domestically are provided in Table 1. Figures for the last three years are fairly stable.

These figures are based on volumes of production and trade. Figures are affected by market conditions in the UK and abroad. Factors affecting market conditions include exchange rates, weather conditions, animal disease and consumer demand. When interpreting the figures it is important to look at the trends over time, rather than concentrating on figures for individual years.

Information on the percentage of domestically produced bread consumed is not available. However, data on the tonnage of wheat grain used for milling and the proportion of wheat grain that is home grown are shown in Table 2. This is also based on volumes but is for the crop year rather than calendar year. The grain will be milled into flour for a range of purposes including bread, biscuits, cakes and starch. It is not possible to provide information that distinguishes home grown wheat grain milled for bread flour alone. The lower percentage home grown wheat in the last two years is a reflection of the lower quality of the domestic crop for milling.

Table 1: Estimate of the percentage consumed from domestic production for meat, eggs, wheat, fruit, vegetables and milk

			Percentage
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Meat	66	65	65
Eggs	81	77	77
Wheat	92	90	92
Fruit	6	7	8
Vegetables	57	55	56
Liquid drinking milk	99	99	99

Source:
DEFRA statistics

Table 2: Estimate of the percentage of home grown wheat grain milled into flour

	Percentage
2006-07	85
2007-08	79
2008-09	78

Source:
DEFRA statistics

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of domestic *(a)* meat, *(b)* eggs, *(c)* bread, *(d)* wheat, *(e)* fruit, *(f)* vegetables and *(g)* milk consumed which was domestically produced in each of the last three years. [313470]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The volume of UK production of meat, eggs, wheat, fruit, vegetables and drinking milk available for use in the UK is provided in the Table 1. This information is not available for bread.

These figures are calculated as UK production minus exports from the UK. This leaves the volume of UK production that is available for use in the UK. These products may be consumed in the UK, but they could also be used in the manufacture of other products, which could later be exported. In the case of wheat availability this includes wheat that is used for animal feed or seed production.

Table 2 shows the tonnage of UK produced grain which is used by the milling industry to produce flour for a range of uses including bread, biscuits, cakes and starch. It is not possible to provide this information specifically for bread.

Table 1: Volume of UK production available for use in the UK

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Meat (thousand tonnes)	2,981	2,904	2,793
Eggs (million dozen)	725	704	730
Wheat (thousand tonnes)	12,619	11,309	14,461
Fruit (thousand tonnes)	215	259	279
Vegetables (thousand tonnes)	2,514	2,382	2,506
Liquid drinking milk (million litres)	6,249	6,212	6,255

Table 2: Volume of UK produced wheat grain used by the milling industry

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
UK grain (thousand tonnes)	4,744	4,693	4,918

Source:
DEFRA statistics

Genetically Modified Organisms: Animal Feed

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission a study into the possible effects of consumption of genetically modified maize on animal health. [311436]

Dan Norris: We have no plans to commission such a study. Under European Union rules, genetically modified (GM) crops are cleared for animal feed use only if they pass a robust safety assessment carried out by the European Food Safety Authority. The assessment takes account of any potential effects on animal health.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of consumption of genetically modified feedstuffs on animal health in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [311440]

Dan Norris: We have not made such an assessment. Under European Union rules, genetically modified (GM) crops are cleared for animal feed use only if they pass a robust safety assessment carried out by the European Food Safety Authority. The assessment takes account of any potential effects on animal health.

Hares: Conservation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of making the hare a protected species; and if he will make a statement. [312254]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: Our assessment is that the hare already has the appropriate protection.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 963W, on agriculture: waste disposal, what provision of the EU Animal By-Products Regulations 1774/2002 prohibits the disposal of fallen stock by means of anaerobic digestion; and if he will make a statement. [312566]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Fallen stock are categorised as high risk material under the animal Regulation 1774/2002, articles 4 and 5 of which require such material to be disposed of by rendering or incineration only (with limited exceptions—for example feeding of certain material to dogs in hunt kennels). Only these disposal routes are approved because they have been shown to be effective in destruction of TSEs—transmissible spongiform encephalopathies—and other serious diseases, whereas anaerobic digestion has to date only been shown to be effective against a more limited range of pathogens.

Monuments: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which sites and monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State have *(a)* current and *(b)* lapsed conservation or management plans. [311615]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is a current management plan for each of the buildings, sites and monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State. These management plans were established as part of the quadrennial and biennial reports prepared in 2008 and 2009 as part of the wider asset management approach.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any sites and monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State are on the English Heritage Monuments at Risk register. [311617]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no buildings, sites or monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State on the English Heritage Monuments at Risk register.

Monuments: Vandalism

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites and monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State have been damaged by vandalism requiring remedial repair action in each of the last five years. [311616]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no reported instances of vandalism resulting in damage requiring remedial repairs to the historic estate over the past five years.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's strategy is in respect of deterrence of vandalism to sites and monuments in the guardianship of the Secretary of State, with particular reference to those in *(a)* remote and *(b)* economically deprived areas. [311618]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA considers that none of its historic buildings, sites or monuments are located in *(b)* economically deprived areas and our experience of vandalism does not necessitate a deterrence strategy.

There is a single monument which might be considered to be in a *(a)* remote location. It is an earthwork monument located in woodland in a semi-rural location. It has a low profile and access is via the main site entrance; our experience is that an active deterrence strategy is not required.

River Dee: Salmon

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the size of the salmon population in the river Dee in the last *(a)* two, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* 15 years. [312618]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the estimates of the numbers of adult salmon returning to the river Dee at Chester each year since 1992 when an intensive long-term monitoring programme for migratory salmonids began on the river.

These estimates are published in spring each year (alongside those of other salmon rivers in England and Wales) in a joint report produced by the Environment Agency and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science: Environment Agency and CEFAS (2009) Annual assessment of salmon stocks and fisheries in England and Wales 2008: A preliminary assessment prepared for ICES, March 2009.

Estimates for 2009 are due to be available by March 2010.

Dee salmon run estimates 1992 to 2008

	Number
1992	4,643
1993	9,757
1994	5,285
1995	5,703
1996	4,931
1997	5,496
1998	6,661
1999	3,664
2000	3,751
2001	4,766
2002	7,216
2003	4,915
2004	7,123
2005	5,435
2006	5,663
2007	5,839
2008	5,437

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the size of the salmon population in the river Dee. [312706]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has not received any specific representations on the level of the salmon population in the river Dee. The Agency has regular contact with fisheries groups on the river Dee in which salmon populations and angling are discussed.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [311977]

Dan Norris: Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Slough, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

As a local authority, Slough is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

> To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.
>
> To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.
>
> To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.
>
> To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.
>
> To champion sustainable development.
>
> To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.
>
> To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.
>
> To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.
>
> To be a respected department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

One example is that Slough has included National Indicator 192 (amount of household waste recycled or composted) and National Indicator 186 (per capita reduction in CO_2 emissions in the local authority area) in its local area agreement, which will encourage it to achieve higher levels of performance in these areas.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its public service agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 report is available at:

> www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/deprep/2009-report.htm

Past reports available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Slough, the Government office for the south-east is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

Special Areas of Conservation: Cumbria

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 157W, on special areas of conservation: Cumbria, whether Natural England has reached agreement with the owners of Bolton Fell Moss candidate Special Area of Conservation on measures needed to secure the future protection of the site; and if he will make a statement. [312419]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Negotiations between Natural England and the company that owns peat extraction rights on Bolton Fell Moss are continuing and progress is being made towards an agreement which will secure the future protection of the site. The issues are complex, and are taking longer to resolve than expected, but Natural England remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached.

Supermarkets: Waste Disposal

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his most recent estimate is of the amount of food produce disposed of by supermarkets which has passed its sell-by date and not its best-before date; [312530]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of trends in the practice of supermarkets of rejecting supplies of fruit and vegetables on the grounds of minor imperfections; [312531]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the amount of fruit and vegetables that is rejected by supermarkets due to minor imperfections; and what recent discussions his Department has had with supermarket representatives on this practice; [312532]

(4) what his policy is on the practice of supermarkets discarding supplies of fruit and vegetables rejected owing to minor imperfections. [312533]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* No estimate has been made of the amount of food disposed of by supermarkets which is beyond its sell-by date but not its best-before date.

There has been no assessment of the practice of supermarkets disposing of food on the grounds of minor imperfections and no estimate of the amount of waste involved is available.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) plans to publish research by early March 2010 on the food waste produced at each stage of the supply chain—from manufacture through to distribution and retail. However, both the amount of food disposed of by supermarkets which is beyond its sell-by-date but not before its best-before date, and the amount of food waste disposed of by supermarkets due to minor imperfections, are beyond the scope of this project.

WRAP, the Food Standards Agency (FSA), representatives from the food industry, consumer groups and the UK Government Departments are also working closely to help reduce this food waste by changing retailers' practices on date labelling and food storage guidance.

Tuna: Conservation

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he made of the outcome of the November 2009 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; and what position the Government took on the proposal to list Atlantic bluefin tuna under Appendix 1 to the convention on international trade in endangered species. [312372]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK welcomes the outcome of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna's (ICCAT) annual meeting that took place in November 2009, as it signals an improvement in the management of the blue-fin tuna stocks. We are assessing whether the measures agreed at the meeting provide sufficient reassurance that ICCAT can take the necessary steps to implement what was agreed at the meeting, in order to turn around the dramatic decline in the species population. Consequently, we have not yet ruled out the need for a convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) Appendix I listing, and it certainly remains an option under consideration in the run up to the CITES Conference of Parties meeting in March this year.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 687W, on tuna: conservation, whether he plans to take advice from the *(a)* International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and *(b)* UN Food and Agricultural Organisation's Ad Hoc Advisory panel into account in determining the UK's negotiating position; and what information will be sought from ICCAT at the compliance meeting in February 2010. [312732]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has considered the information provided by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the outcome of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) annual meeting in shaping its negotiating position on blue fin tuna.

The UK will be in attendance at the February meeting of the ICCAT Compliance Committee, and will want to be completely satisfied that the contracting parties operating in the blue-fin tuna fishery can demonstrate that they are able to enforce the new provisions effectively, so as to prevent quotas being exceeded.

Water Charges: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Ofwat has received representations from the Office of the Third Sector over the new system of water charging on voluntary groups. [312378]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has received a number of representations from stakeholders and other Government Departments, including the Office of the Third Sector, on concessionary surface water drainage schemes for community groups.

Ofwat has not received representations from the Office of the Third Sector on the new system of water charging for voluntary groups.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criteria his Department use to assess the merits of proposals to expand airports; what changes to these criteria there have been since 1997; whether any changes are planned in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [313154]

Paul Clark: "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper (2003) provides a strategic framework for the sustainable development of airport capacity in the UK. It neither authorises nor precludes any particular development, but serves to inform and guide the consideration of specific applications which may be made by airport owners to the relevant planning authority.

The White Paper was based on extensive research and analysis to ensure that economic, environmental and social impacts were properly considered. For example, the criteria used to assess options for airport expansion in the south-east were published in "Appraisal framework for airports in South East and East of England" (DTLR, 2000).

Subsequently, the Department has conducted an impact assessment of the decisions set out in "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Decisions following Consultation" (DFT, 2009). The impact assessment was consistent with the relevant appraisal guidance, including the procedures and criteria set out in the Better Regulation Executive's impact assessment guidance.

The Department continues to keep under review the approach it takes to assessing the merits of airport expansion.

Aviation: Security

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to utilise passenger data for risk assessment purposes at airport security screening check points. [312908]

Paul Clark: We are currently examining whether some form of targeting—which could potentially include passenger data—would be a more effective means of selecting passengers for additional screening than doing so at random. We have not yet made any decisions on the way forward.

Bus Services: Concessions

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many people travelled on local buses under the concessionary fare scheme in each *(a)* passenger transport executive and *(b)* non-passenger transport executive area in 2008-09; [312868]

(2) how many people made one or more journeys on *(a)* light rail and *(b)* tram services under the concessionary fare scheme in 2008-09; [312869]

(3) how many people travelled on local bus services in London under the concessionary fare scheme in 2008-09. [312870]

Mr. Khan: Estimates of bus journeys made under the concessionary travel scheme during 2008-09 have not yet been published. They are planned for publication not later than June 2010. This date is later than would normally have been the case, as a result of the development of new estimation methodologies that are being applied across a broad range of bus statistics. Figures for concessionary trips made by light rail and tram are not collected.

However, some published estimates are available from the National Travel Survey on the use of the concessionary bus travel scheme by adults aged 60 and over in Great Britain. The following table presents estimates of the take-up of concessionary bus passes, and the proportion of people travelling by bus at least once a month, for this age group in the calendar years 2005 to 2008.

Self-reported use of concessionary bus travel scheme by adults aged 60 and over in Great Britain, by area type, 2005-08

Area type	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Unweighted sample size (individuals, 2008)*[1]
Take- up of concessionary bus passes (percentage)					
London boroughs	84	85	85	91	454
Metropolitan built-up areas	70	79	82	84	698
Large urban	56	61	68	74	764
Medium urban	54	59	68	75	1,359
Small/medium urban	55	58	66	72	435
Small urban	46	57	62	68	451
Rural	34	48	49	56	953
All areas	56	63	68	73	5,114
Travel by bus at least once a month (percentage)					
London boroughs	69	69	72	78	—
Metropolitan built-up areas	51	60	59	61	—
Large urban	42	48	52	53	—
Medium urban	38	42	46	48	—
Small/medium urban	32	32	35	44	—
Small urban	26	33	31	37	—
Rural	21	22	24	25	—
All areas	39	43	45	48	—

[1] Samples for earlier years were of a comparable size but are not shown in this table for reasons of brevity.

Source:

National Travel Survey

Departmental Public Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department *(a)* budgeted to spend and *(b)* spent on (i) support for passenger rail franchises and (ii) Transport Innovation Fund capital grants to local authorities for 2008-09; [312552]

(2) how much his Department *(a)* budgeted to spend and *(b)* have spent to date on (i) support for passenger rail franchises and (ii) Transport Innovation Fund capital grants to local authorities for 2009-10. [312554]

Chris Mole: Support for passenger rail franchises in 2008-09 was budgeted to deliver net income to the Department for Transport of £343 million, against which the outturn was net income of £402 million. In 2009-10 the year-to-date income at the end of December 2009 was £148 million. With expenditure forecast to increase over the remainder of the year due to the impact of the economic downturn on industry revenues, the final position is expected to be in line with the budgeted income of £34 million.

No Transport Innovation Fund capital funding was paid to local authorities in 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department *(a)* budgeted to spend and *(b)* spent on (i) the congestion Transport Innovation Fund and (ii) the productivity Transport Innovation Fund for 2008-09; [312560]

(2) how much his Department *(a)* budgeted to spend and *(b)* has spent to date on (i) the congestion Transport Innovation Fund and (ii) the productivity Transport Innovation Fund for 2009-10. [312561]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport announced in July 2005 that it would make available up to £200 million per year from 2008-09 to support Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) congestion packages. Spending depended on receiving acceptable bids from local authorities. A provisional allocation of capital resources for congestion TIF of around £100 million in 2008-09 and £200 million in 2009-10 was made in spending plans prior to start of 2008-09.

Nothing has been spent directly from congestion TIF, However the Department has spent £16.1 million in 2008-09 and £2.7 million to date in 2009-10 on pump priming and development costs for potential congestion TIF bids.

Productivity TIF schemes are being delivered by Network Rail and the Highways Agency. The Department budgeted £55.3 million for rail projects in 2008-09 which was spent by Network Rail with a further £61.7 million expected to be spent in 2009-10.

The budgets for productivity TIF schemes delivered by the Highways Agency were £50.7 million for 2008-09 and £122.5 million for 2009-10. Total spend on the Birmingham Box and A14 active traffic management schemes was £46.6 million in 2008-09 and £68.4 million to December in 2009-10.

Driving Offences: Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the code of practice for operation of CCTV enforcement cameras and *(b)* a code of practice for bus lane camera enforcement using attended CCTV equipment for approved English local authorities outside London. [311788]

Mr. Khan: With regard to the guidance we have issued on the use of CCTV for civil parking enforcement, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Civil bus lane enforcement in England outside London relies exclusively on evidence from CCTV. I have arranged for a copy of the provisional guidance on bus lane (including tramway) enforcement in England outside London to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Department for Transport has not issued any other codes of practice on CCTV traffic enforcement, but many local traffic authorities have done so.

Driving Offences: Crime Prevention

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of people who drive *(a)* whilst using a mobile telephone, *(b)* without wearing a seat belt, *(c)* whilst disqualified and *(d)* without insurance; and if he will make a statement. [313147]

Paul Clark: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Department increased the penalty for drivers using a mobile phone to include three penalty points from February 2007. A publicity campaign ran in May 2009 which included a TV commercial and online activity. A new radio campaign warned younger drivers of the dangers of texting while driving.

(b) The Home Office increased the fixed penalty for not using a seat belt to £60 from 30 June 2009. A publicity campaign ran in November 2008 which included a new TV commercial also shown in cinemas, two new radio commercials with online activity and outdoor advertising on petrol pump nozzles and car park barriers. A further campaign will run throughout February 2010.

(c) The Department does all that it can to assist the police and the courts in detecting and prosecuting cases of unlicensed driving including driving while disqualified. A critical step has been the provision to the police of 24 hour access to accurate and up-to-date driver licensing information (including a photograph where appropriate) at the roadside to assist detection and enforcement. There are also good IT links between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the courts to assist in effective prosecution of offenders.

(d) The Home Office introduced a new offence in August 2008 of "causing death by driving while unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured" which carries a custodial sentence of up to two years. The Road Safety Act 2006 introduced a new offence of being a registered keeper of a vehicle for which there is no valid motor insurance, to be enforced by a procedure of continuous insurance enforcement. Further regulations are required to bring these provisions into force. The Department plans to commence delivery of the scheme in 2010-11 starting with an initial publicity campaign to raise public awareness.

Driving: Licenses

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanisms exist to ensure that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's enforcement policy is *(a)* proportionate, *(b)* transparent, *(c)* consistent and *(d)* accountable. [313328]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) enforcement strategy seeks to maximise collection of vehicle excise duty (VED) at minimum cost and includes proportionate action against non-compliance. DVLA enforcement activities are provided for in law and steered by a cross-Government board which meets every quarter, keeping the approach under review. The agency's enforcement and compliance systems make it more convenient than ever to pay VED but very difficult to evade. The latest national statistics estimate that DVLA collects 99.4 per cent. of all VED payable.

DVLA also operates the Registration of Number Plate Suppliers scheme, educating suppliers of the rules and taking action against those who break the law. A recent Hampton Implementation Review by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills concluded that DVLA demonstrated good overall compliance with the Hampton principles.

First Capital Connect: Industrial Disputes

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations Ministers in his Department have *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from First Capital Connect on industrial action by drivers on the First Capital Connect Thameslink route in the last three months. [312507]

Chris Mole: While industrial relations is a matter for First Capital Connect to manage, the Secretary of State has made representations to both First Capital Connect and First Group as to the importance of restoring a full passenger service. Now that the drivers have accepted the pay deal, First Capital Connect has restored the full timetable.

Other representations have been made to and from Department for Transport officials, both in terms of requirements under the Franchise Agreement in relation to the concerted actions by drivers and the day to day contractual review which these officials carry out.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many items of correspondence he has received on the recent industrial action by drivers on the First Capital Connect Thameslink route. [312508]

Chris Mole: Ministers and officials at the Department for Transport have received over 320 items of correspondence, including emails.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to facilitate the introduction of a rail link between Woking and Heathrow airport. [312416]

Chris Mole: A scheme to provide a direct rail link between Woking and Heathrow airport, known as Heathrow Airtrack, is being promoted by Heathrow Airport Ltd., a subsidiary of BAA. In order to secure powers to construct and operate the scheme, Heathrow Airport Ltd. submitted an application for an Order under the Transport and Works Act in July 2009. A public inquiry is planned to be held during 2010 following which the independent planning inspector will make recommendations to Ministers.

Ice and Snow: Merseyside

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will discuss with Wirral borough council *(a)* damage caused by ice to roads in the borough and *(b)* the clearance of snow from main and side roads in the borough. [313387]

Mr. Khan: The maintenance of the local highway in Wirral is the responsibility of Wirral metropolitan borough council. This Department has published guidance on its emergency capital highway maintenance funding scheme. If Wirral metropolitan borough council wishes to submit a claim for this funding, in connection with damage caused by this winter's severe weather, the Department will arrange for its consultants to provide free assistance to the authority.

As the local highway authority, it is a matter for Wirral metropolitan borough council to decide on their policy for clearing snow and ice from their roads. The UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) has published "Well maintained highways", a code of practice for highway maintenance. They have recently published updated guidance on the section which covers winter maintenance. Both the code of practice and the revised winter service guidance are available free of charge on the UKRLG website:

www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org

Parking Offences: Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 644W, on parking: fines, which local authority uses automatic number plate recognition technology for civil parking enforcement; and for what purpose that option was certified. [312025]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is aware that some local authorities use automatic number plate recognition technology to trigger the recording of a potential parking contravention, or to assist the process of vehicle identification. We cannot compile a list of such authorities, as they are not, in all circumstances, required to notify the Department that they are currently using such technology for these purposes. In all cases, the video record must be reviewed by a human operator, who decides whether to issue a penalty charge notice.

Railways: Snow and Ice

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many rail services in England and Wales were cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions in January 2010; and how many such services served stations in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the east midlands. [312223]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold a detailed breakdown of the reasons for specific cancellations. However, in the most recent four weeks for which provisional figures are available (ending 9 January 2010) 17,172 trains were cancelled in England and Wales. This represents 4.16 per cent. of trains scheduled to run.

In the same period, East Midland Trains (which serves Leicester and is the main train operator in the east midlands) cancelled 106 trains, which represents 0.97 per cent. of trains scheduled to run. Crosscountry Trains (which also serves Leicester and the east midlands) cancelled 297 trains, which represents 4.65 per cent of trains scheduled to run.

Detailed train performance data for the rail network, including cancellations by cause, is collected and held by Network Rail. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which train operating companies operated reduced timetables on *(a)* 6, *(b)* 7 and *(c)* 8 January 2010; and what reason was given by each train operating company for operating such timetables. [312669]

Chris Mole: According to information received by the Department, the following train operating companies operated reduced timetables on the dates shown, in all cases due to the adverse weather conditions:

Reduced timetables operated

Train operating companies	*6 January*	*7 January*	*8 January*
Chiltern	Yes	—	Yes
East Coast	Yes	Yes	Yes
FCC	Yes	Yes	Yes
FGW	—	Yes	Yes
First TPE	—	Yes	Yes
London Midland	—	—	Yes
London Overground	—	Yes	—
NXEA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern	—	Yes	Yes
ScotRail	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southeastern	Yes	Yes	Yes
South West Trains	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southern	Yes	Yes	Yes

In addition, on all three dates, First Capital Connect operated reduced timetables because of a shortage of available drivers.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made a recent assessment of the resilience of the rail network in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* the south-east to severe weather conditions. [312670]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is working with the rail industry to review performance and the industry's response during the recent disruption caused by the severe weather conditions. The Department is also collecting information on all services which were operated to understand whether improvements could be made to rail services during future adverse weather.

Regional Planning and Development: Transport

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which public bodies are responsible for the content of *(a)* regional transport plans and *(b)* transport chapters of regional spatial strategies. [311795]

Mr. Khan: Planning Policy Statement 11, which is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147423.pdf

sets out the requirements for regional transport strategies, which form an integral part of regional spatial strategies. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004, responsibility for preparing regional spatial strategies is assigned to designated regional planning bodies which in recent years have been the regional assemblies.

On full commencement of part 5 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, on 1 April 2010, the regional spatial strategy (prepared under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and the regional economic strategy (prepared under the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998) will jointly become the regional strategy in each region until revised and replaced by a new integrated regional strategy.

The new integrated regional strategy, which will also include a transport strategy, will be the responsibility of responsible regional authorities, comprising regional development agencies and local authority leaders' boards acting jointly.

Separate legislation applies in London.

Roads: Accidents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many persons injured in road traffic accidents did not receive full compensation for injuries sustained in cases where the driver of the vehicle at fault was not insured in each of the last five years. [313116]

Paul Clark: There is no information held on this specific aspect. The Motor Insurers Bureau compensates people injured in road traffic accidents caused by uninsured or untraced drivers. Compensation claims are assessed and settled on the circumstances of each case.

Roads: Lighting

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what legislative provisions in respect of street lighting are in force; what changes there have been to such legislation since its enactment; and if he will make a statement. [313273]

Mr. Khan: There are a number of legislative provisions that apply in respect of street lighting, starting with the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847. A searchable database of current legislation can be found at:

http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the renewal of street lighting; and if he will make a statement. [313276]

Mr. Khan: The Department has not issued any guidance to local authorities on the renewal of street lighting. We have issued guidance in relation to the current bidding round for street lighting PFI. This can be found on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/streetlightingpfi

Roads: Snow and Ice

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of grit and salt to treat roads and pavements in *(a)* Leicester, *(b)* the east midlands and *(c)* nationwide in periods of very cold weather. [312215]

Mr. Khan: Following the severe weather in February 2009, the UK Roads Liaison Group published a report on the lessons learnt on salt usage and supply. The Department for Transport welcomed the UKRLG report and wrote to local authority chief executives impressing on them the importance of effective winter service strategies. The UKRLG also issued revised guidance on winter service.

The UKRLG recommendation was that local authorities should keep six days salt capacity and that in addition the Highways Agency should hold a strategic reserve. The Highways Agency entered this winter period with 13 days' capacity and I regard this as the right response following last year's events. For local roads, it is for each local highway authority to consider what measures to take to ensure roads and pavements can be gritted, based on the guidance available to them.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many snow ploughs provided by his Department were in operation in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the east midlands in January 2010. [312216]

Mr. Khan: As part of the Highways Agency's winter fleet replacement project, 35 new vehicles were in operation in the east midlands region this season, of which nine operated specifically within Leicestershire. The Highways Agency does not have any motorways or trunk roads within Leicester.

Winter service provision on local authority roads is a matter for the authority concerned. The Department for Transport does not provide snow ploughs or other equipment.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport from what sources the salt used to treat roads in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the east midlands is procured. [312218]

Mr. Khan: Local authorities in the East Midlands purchase the salt they use to treat roads from a number of suppliers, the two biggest being Salt Union and Cleveland Potash. Salt Union currently supply salt to treat roads to Leicester city and Leicestershire.

The Highways Agency does not have any trunk roads or motorways in Leicester. Salt used to treat the trunk roads and motorways in the east midlands region is purchased from Salt Union.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many A-roads in Leicestershire were closed owing to adverse weather conditions in January 2010. [312221]

Mr. Khan: No A-roads in Leicestershire have been closed owing to the adverse weather conditions in January 2010.

The Highways Agency is responsible for the Strategic Road Network in England. No trunk roads or motorways in Leicestershire have been closed so far in January owing to adverse weather conditions.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many roads for which his Department has responsibility in *(a)* Leicester, *(b)* the east midlands and *(c)* nationwide were closed owing to adverse weather conditions in January 2010. [312222]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency has responsibility for the Strategic Road Network in England. This network is made up of motorways and trunk roads. The following table shows those road closures on the Strategic Road Network which were directly and immediately attributable to the adverse weather conditions in January 2010.

Note:

None of them were in the east midlands. Where no date is provided in the 'date to' box, the road was only closed on one day.

Road	*Details*	*Date from*	*Date to*	*Times*
A628	Flouch (A616/A628 roundabout to A57 Tintwistle)	2 January 2010	—	11:40 to 15:26
A628	Flouch (A616/A628 roundabout to A57 Tintwistle)	5 January 2010	14 January 2010	07:15 to 16:00
A616	M1 J35A to junction with A628 Flouch	5 January 2010	6 January 2010	13:35 to 10:30
A66	Bowes (A67) to Brough (A685)	2 January 2010	3 January 2010	14:32 to 14:55
A66[1]	Bowes (A67) to Brough (A685)	5 January 2010	—	03:26 to 14:27
A66	Bowes (A67) to Brough (A685)	5 January 2010	7 January 2010	17:05 to 13:25
A66	Bowes (A67) to Brough (A685)	9 January 2010	14 January 2010	17:35 to 18:33
A249	Sheppey Crossing - both directions	6 January 2010	—	19:30 to 21:30
A249	Sheppey Crossing - both directions	9 January 2010	10 January 2010	02:50 to14:05
A3	Hindhead	5 January 2010	6 January 2010	18:20 to 12:17
M48	J1 - J2 Severn Bridge westbound	13 January 2010	—	02:20 to 12:00
M48	J1 - J2 Severn Bridge eastbound	13 January 2010	—	02:20 to 12:15
A38	A380 Kennford to B3344 Harcombe	12 January 2010	13 January 2010	21:30 to 01:20
A5	A509 to A422 near Milton Keynes - both directions	6 January 2010	—	20:40 to 22:35

[1] The A66 was closed between the snow gates at Bowes and Brough. On 5 January the road was closed, reopened and closed again.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much salt has been available to *(a)* each Lancashire district council and *(b)* Lancashire county council in anticipation of its requirement for road-gritting in each of the last three years. [312338]

Mr. Khan: Winter service, including provisioning salt stocks in anticipation of gritting requirements, is a matter for each individual local highway authority. Salt is available on open markets from a range of sources, and the Department for Transport does not regularly monitor authorities' purchases.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the contribution of Lord Davies of Oldham of 2 February 2004, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 444, on footpaths and roads: de-icing, whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on *(a)* the personal liability of householders who seek to clear the pavement or highway of ice or snow and *(b)* on whether local authorities should seek to (i) discourage or (ii) encourage householders from clearing highways themselves. [312427]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 532W.

Transport: Weston-super-Mare

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when a decision will be made on programme entry for the Weston Transport Package. [312214]

Mr. Khan: A decision on programme entry is due to be made shortly.

Underground Railways: Contracts

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what arrangements his Department has made under the London Underground public-private partnership to ensure the continued operation of the London Underground system in the event of a failure by Tubelines to meets its contractual commitments under the partnership. [313058]

Mr. Khan: Any failure by Tube Lines to meet its contractual commitments is a matter for London Underground Ltd., Transport for London and the Mayor of London under the devolved arrangements set out in the Greater London Authority Act 1999. The Tube Lines PPP contract is available on Transport for London's website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Braintree constituency receive carer's allowance; and how many of these are in paid employment. [312078]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the tables.

Carer's allowance cases in payment as at May 2009

	Number
England	428,350
Essex	9,350

Carer's allowance cases in payment as at May 2009

	Number
Braintree parliamentary constituency	710

Notes:
1. Case load totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with underlying entitlement to carer's allowance but where carer's allowance is not in payment.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. England total has been derived by summing individual Government office regional totals.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Carer's allowance cases in payment where the recipient is also in employment as at May 2009

	Number
England	42,170
Essex	1,080
Braintree parliamentary constituency	90

Notes:
1. Case load totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with underlying entitlement to carer's allowance but where carer's allowance is not in payment.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. England total has been derived by summing individual Government office regional totals.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Cold Weather Payments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy to determine the award of cold weather payments by geographical area rather than by postcode. [312574]

Helen Goodman: Determining the award of cold weather payments by regional areas rather than postcode districts would not reflect temperature variations in local areas effectively enough to enable the finite resources of the scheme to be targeted at those in most need.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which websites her Department's staff are prevented from accessing from departmental networked computers. [311466]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department's staff are prevented from accessing 22 website categories from the Department's networked computers. The categories are:

Adult/Sexually Explicit
Alcohol and Tobacco
Chat
Criminal Activity
Downloads
Gambling
Games
Hacking
Illegal Drugs
Intolerance and Hate
Peer-to-Peer
Personals and Dating
Phishing and Fraud
Proxies and Translators
Ringtones/Mobile Phone Downloads
Spam URLs
Spyware
Streaming Media
Tasteless and Offensive
Violence
Weapons
Web-based E-mail

Jobseeker's Allowance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of pupils permanently excluded from school in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland claimed jobseeker's allowance within three months of leaving school in the latest period for which figures are available; [302998]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average length of time permanently excluded pupils who subsequently claimed jobseeker's allowance claimed before finding full-time employment in the latest period for which figures are available; [302999]

(3) what proportion of 16 year-olds in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency who left school without five GCSEs at grade A* to C began to claim jobseeker's allowance within six months of leaving school in the latest period for which figures are available. [303140]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Jobseeker's allowance is not usually payable to under 18s, except those in severe hardship.

Information on whether a claimant of jobseeker's allowance is or was a permanently excluded student is not collected by the Jobcentre.

Academic qualifications are collected by the Jobcentre when a claimant applies for jobseeker's allowance however these are not collected on the datasets used to analyse jobseeker's allowance claimants.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people who reached the end of their entitlement to contribution-based jobseeker's allowance went to *(a)* claim income-based jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* claim Class 1 national insurance credits only *(c)* claim another out-of-work benefit and *(d)* left benefits in each month since January 2008; [313105]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of claimants at the end of an entitlement to contribution-based jobseeker's allowance who *(a)* went on to claim income-based jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* went on to claim Class 1 national insurance credits only, *(c)* went on to claim another out of work benefit and (d) left benefits altogether in each year since 1997. [313267]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to assist those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency to secure employment. [311559]

Jim Knight: Government's priority is to ensure that everyone who is out of work has the support they need to find a job. As part of this commitment, the Government have made up to £5 billion available since November 2008 to offer substantial new support to jobseekers, and particularly young people, during the recession.

In April 2009, we launched an enhanced offer to all jobseekers at day one of their claim which includes targeted group sessions in jobsearch techniques, access to Local Employment Partnership vacancies and access to additional financial support towards the costs associated with finding work. We have also quadrupled funding to the Rapid Response Service which provides advice and support to people facing redundancy.

When they reach six months of unemployment, all jobseekers are now able to access a substantial new package of support including recruitment subsidies, work-focused training places, volunteering opportunities and support to become self-employed.

Government have also introduced substantial new support to help young people during the recession, particularly through the Future Jobs Fund, where Lancashire county council have already been successful in a bid to create up to 503 Future Jobs Fund jobs in the local area which will provide valuable opportunities for people in the area.

The support will be further enhanced from 25 January with the introduction of the Young Person's Guarantee, which guarantees all 18 to 24-year-olds who reach six months of unemployment access to a job, training or work experience. From April 2010, young people will be required to take up one of the places on offer before they complete 10 months on benefit.

Young people will also be given access to a named Jobcentre Plus Personal Adviser at the start of their claim and have more time with an adviser throughout their claim. And we are offering many more young people day one access to the substantial support that is normally available at six months.

In addition, 18 to 24-year-olds in Morecambe and Lunesdale who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months have access to the New Deal for Young People, and customers aged 25 and over who have been unemployed for 18 months have access to the New Deal 25 Plus programme. The new Flexible New Deal, which builds on the success of the existing New Deal programmes and offers more personalised and flexible support, will be introduced in Morecambe and Lunesdale from April 2010.

Maternity Benefits: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women resident in Preston have been awarded the Sure Start Maternity Grant since its introduction. [311076]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Pathways to Work

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with mental health problems have been referred to the Pathways to Work programme since its inception; and how many of them *(a)* were referred to the Condition Management Programme, *(b)* moved into employment and *(c)* moved back on to benefits within 12 months of moving into employment. [310556]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 January 2010]*: Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Pathways to Work. Official statistics on Pathways to Work job entries are available up to January 2009 and are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_ref_p2w.asp

Up to April 2009, 100,810 individuals with a mental health condition in Provider-Led Pathways areas and 293,550 individuals in Jobcentre Plus Pathways areas, had started the Pathways to Work programme.

Up to April 2009, 39,760 individuals with a mental health condition had been referred to the Condition Management Programme in Jobcentre Plus Pathways areas. Figures are not available for Provider-Led Pathways.

Up to January 2009, 10,070 individuals with a mental health condition in Provider-Led Pathways areas and 54,340 individuals in Jobcentre Plus Pathways areas, had started employment through the Pathways to Work programme.

In order to look at whether customers have moved back onto benefit within 12 months of starting work, we need to consider an earlier cohort of customers, to allow time to capture any movement back onto benefit.

Up to May 2008, 37,380 individuals with a mental health condition in Provider-Led Pathways areas and 253,310 individuals in Jobcentre Plus Pathways areas, had started the Pathways to Work programme. Of which 2,110 in Provider-Led Pathways areas and 43,450 individuals in Jobcentre Plus Pathways areas had moved into employment by May 2008. Of which, 740 individuals (35 per cent.) in Provider-Led Pathways areas and 17,590 individuals (40 per cent) in Jobcentre Plus Pathways areas had moved back onto benefit within 12 months of moving into employment.

The figures relate to those customers whose GPs' diagnosis of their main disabling condition is mental health condition.

The Government also offer other support to help people with a mental health condition get and keep jobs. Access to Work is a specialist disability programme that helps disabled people overcome work-related obstacles. It is flexible, easy to access and shows high levels of satisfaction from disabled people and their employers. We are doubling the budget for Access to Work to £138 million by 2014 to ensure that everyone who can benefit from the programme is able to access it. We have also developed a range of improvements to the programme, including changes to ensure the programme helps people with mental health conditions more effectively. We will be discussing these changes with stakeholders over the next few months, with the intention of beginning implementation from April 2010.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Medical condition information is obtained from the individuals GPs' diagnosis of their main disabling condition and is based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical breakdowns are currently available for incapacity benefit /severe disablement allowance customers but not for those of employment and support allowance.

3. Official statistics use both HMRC data and return to work credit data to calculate how many Pathways customers have moved into employment. This may not include some self-employed people and low earners who fall below the HMRC threshold and do not claim RTWC.

4. If a person has started Pathways or entered employment more than once in the period, then their first Pathways or employment spell is counted.

Source:

DWP Jobcentre Plus and Provider-Led databases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the announcement of the review of the Pathways to Work scheme in her Department's White Paper on Building Britain's Recovery, who will conduct the review; what timetable has been set for that review; when she plans to publish the findings of the review; and what her latest assessment is of the performance of the Pathways to Work scheme. [311575]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The review of the support we offer to disabled Jobcentre Plus customers and those with health conditions began in November 2009. It is being conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions. As part of the review we are engaging with a range of delivery partners and external stakeholders and have asked for views from any interested party at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pathways-evidence-gathering-151209.pdf

The findings of the review and proposals for future support for disabled customers and customers with health conditions will be published in the spring.

Early evidence from the initial Pathways pilots was very positive, showing that people enquiring about incapacity benefit in Pathways areas were 25 per cent. more likely to be in work at 18 months. Official statistics for the number of job outcomes for those participating in JCP-Led and Provider-Led Pathways are available on the Department's website

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_ref_p2w.asp

This shows that since October 2003 and as of January 2009 more than 173,000 people have moved into work through Pathways.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Braintree constituency receive (i) income-related and (ii) contributory employment and support allowance; and how many of these are in paid employment. [312077]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of people in paid employment receiving employment and support allowance is not available. The available information is in the table.

Employment and support allowance, benefit case load: May 2009 (thousand), in England, local authorities in Essex and Braintree parliamentary constituency

		Benefit type			
Area	Total	Contribution based only	Both	Income based only	No payment—credits only
England	237.25	86.16	16.59	104.39	30.11
Essex county local authorities	5.09	1.92	0.38	2.23	0.58
Braintree parliamentary constituency	0.43	0.16	0.03	0.17	0.07

Notes:

1. Case load figures are expressed in thousands and rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

3. The figures relating to employment and support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard however it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown is provisional.

4. Figures are published on:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/esa.asp

5. Figures for the number of employment and support allowance claimants in paid employment are not available.

6. Benefit type—The benefit type is defined as pay status at the case load date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.

7. Local authority—The figures for Essex county are comprised of Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford local authorities.

8. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that a benefit claimant's first sanction for an offence should not involve loss of benefit. [310565]

Jim Knight: There are no plans to bring forward such proposals.

Section 24 of the Welfare Reform Act 2009, to be commenced in April 2010, provides for loss or reduction of benefit for a period of four weeks for a first offence of benefit fraud that results in a conviction, administrative penalty or caution. The aim of this measure is to deter those thinking about committing benefit fraud from doing so. However, those who persist will face a loss or reduction of continuing benefit.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the outcome of Operation Golf in respect of identification of benefit fraud originating outside the UK; and *(a)* which resources and *(b)* how many staff of her Department and its agencies are assigned to the detection of such frauds. [313260]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: Operation Golf is an ongoing Metropolitan Police Service investigation and it will fall to the Metropolitan Police Service to respond. Where appropriate these matters are jointly investigated under a Joint Statement of Intent between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Metropolitan police. Intelligence suggesting possible benefit abuse arising from Operation Golf is disseminated and referred to DWP and/or Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for investigation.

The Fraud Investigation Service was set up as a national service in April 2006 to investigate fraudulent activity against all benefits administered by DWP. The Fraud Investigation Service structure includes two national teams; one specialising in investigating cases where there is a suggestion of serious and/or organised criminality and another in gathering and analysis of intelligence. Resources are deployed in direct proportion to the needs of an investigation.

As at December 2009, 2,786 staff are employed by the Fraud Investigation Service.

War Pensions: Council Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of local authorities disregard war pension payments for the purposes of means testing for *(a)* council tax and *(b)* housing benefit. [311478]

Helen Goodman: There is a statutory disregard on income from war pensions (war disablement pension, a pension to a war widow or war widower or a similar pension paid to a surviving civil partner) which applies to all income-related benefits including housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Additionally, local authorities have discretionary powers to further disregard income from war pensions when calculating entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Currently all local authorities provide some form of additional disregard. However, DWP does not maintain a central record of the proportion of income each local authority disregards; this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Pledge

5. **Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from the construction industry on the housing pledge; and if he will make a statement. [312952]

John Healey: The housing pledge was part of the Government's response to the economic crisis. It has provided public investment to deliver new homes and jobs across every region of the country. It was welcomed by Stewart Baseley (Executive Chairman, HBF) as:

> "a real boost for potential home owners, the industry and wider economy".

Council Tax Rebanding

17. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations his Department has received on council tax rebanding; and if he will make a statement. [312965]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has received no recent representations regarding council tax rebanding.

Business Rate Revaluation

18. **Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which types of business he expects to experience the highest increase in rateable values as a result of the April 2010 business rate revaluation. [312966]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The majority of business properties will see their rates bill decrease as a result of revaluation. Our £2 billion transitional relief scheme will limit the impact of the highest increases in 2010-11 rates bills to no more than 11 per cent., and just 3.5 per cent. for small properties.

21. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will conduct an impact assessment on the effect on businesses of the 2010 business rate revaluation. [312969]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Regular revaluations are a standard part of the business rates system and are required by statute. We have considered carefully the impact of the 2010 revaluation which is why we are introducing a £2 billion transitional relief scheme. A final impact assessment of our transitional relief scheme for revaluation 2010 was published on 17 November 2009.

Home Information Packs

19. **Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department plans to use to evaluate the effectiveness of the home information pack programme; and if he will make a statement. [312967]

Mr. Ian Austin: As my hon. Friend the Housing Minister said in response to a written question from the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 482W, we intend to evaluate the effectiveness of HIPs by updating "The HIP Baseline Research Report", published in January 2007. A copy of this report is available on the CLG website.

Economic Regeneration: North West

22. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the performance of local authorities in promoting economic regeneration in the north-west. [312970]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are many examples of local authority activity to promote economic regeneration in the north-west. Local authorities were recently assessed as part of the joint inspectorate comprehensive area assessment (CAA). The results are publicly available on the Oneplace website.

North West Bicester Eco-town

23. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce the level of growth funding which his Department will provide to Cherwell District Council in respect of the North West Bicester eco-town. [312971]

John Healey: I hope to announce the Growth Fund allocation for North West Bicester, and the other three first wave eco-town locations shortly.

Connecting Communities

24. **Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's connecting communities programme. [312972]

Mr. Denham: We are commissioning a national evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the connecting communities programme. This will be conducted in two phases, the first phase reporting at the end of June 2010, and the second phase reporting at the end of December 2010.

Early monitoring through Government offices show a real appetite for the programme at a local level and good early indications of delivery.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have used his Department's connecting communities programme to place people seeking work in vacancies offered under the future jobs fund. [312968]

Mr. Denham: The connecting communities programme is providing support to those communities most vulnerable as a result of the recession, focusing on issues of jobs, homes, crime and antisocial behaviour and opportunities for young people.

There are early indications that the programme is helping people benefit from the Future Jobs Fund. For example, in Nottingham, Aspley neighbourhood, a scheme is being developed to train people to mentor 96 long-term unemployed people who are being supported under the Future Jobs Fund. Last week I visited Athersley and New Lodge in Barnsley and saw how practical actions taken through connecting communities had already helped 16 people from the St. Helens ward access employment.

Audit Commission: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 60W, on the Audit Commission: public relations, if he will make an assessment of the compliance of the Audit Commission's engagement of a public affairs firm with Cabinet Office's guidance on use of public relations consultancy and agencies by non-departmental public bodies. [311846]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Although the Audit Commission did not seek advice from the Department, officials have reviewed the information provided by the Audit Commission about the work done for them by public relations firm Connect Public Affairs and are satisfied that this is within the scope of activity allowed under Cabinet Office guidance.

I have asked officials to write to the Department's executive public bodies to remind them of the guidance relating to publicity and public relations.

Children in Care: Planning Permission

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for children's homes under Class C2 of the Town and Country Planning Order 1987 were *(a)* submitted, *(b)* granted and *(c)* refused in each local authority in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [313469]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not held centrally.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* associated non-departmental public bodies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if he publish the (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [312569]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has already signed up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon emissions by 10 per cent. in 2010; and is committed to working towards this target with its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). CLG understands the 10:10 campaign to relate to carbon emissions from energy use, owned vehicles and air travel.

The two main decision criteria in signing up were performance to date and the availability of cost-effective carbon reduction opportunities deliverable over the next 12 months.

The CLG Group, which includes its executive agencies and selected NDPBs, reduced reported emissions from energy use by over 10 per cent. in 2008-09 compared to the previous year and has already reduced emissions from road travel by 30 per cent. compared to the Sustainable Operations (SOGE) target to reduce by 15 per cent. by 2010-11 against 2005-06 levels. Given these recent successes, it is particularly challenging to reduce emissions by a further 10 per cent. in 2010 across such a diverse estate and range of organisations.

CLG's ongoing research and analysis, which informs its wider Carbon Reduction Delivery Plan, indicates that a further 10 per cent. reduction should be possible across its headquarter estate in 2010. These reductions are expected to be delivered by continued estate rationalisation, upgrade of lighting, heat recovery projects and more efficient operation of plant and machinery.

Specific research includes assessments of estate strategies, FM and engineering practices and asset replacement opportunities. These will then be prioritised based on payback and availability of resources.

In assessing its approach to short term targets such as 10:10, the Department remains mindful of its long term strategy for meeting its Carbon Budget allocations, necessary to deliver the 80 per cent. reduction by 2050, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008.

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313031]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the noble Lady Baroness Warsi on 20 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA322.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for each such category of expenditure in 2009-10. [310760]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold website cost information for the year 2006-07. For information on website costs for the year 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W.

For information on website costs 2008-09 and forecast costs for 2009-10 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 234-35W.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much expenditure was incurred in the *(a)* disposal and *(b)* modification of signage consequent on the creation of his Department. [312854]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government spent £5,000 on replacement signage at the time the Department was created. The Department is unable to provide specific costs for *(a)* the disposal and *(b)* the modification of signage.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313662]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Floods: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much *(a)* Cumbria County Council and *(b)* the Lake District National Park Authority has (i) applied for and (ii) received under the Bellwin scheme in each year since 2004; [313410]

(2) what funding the Lake District National Park Authority has *(a)* received and *(b)* applied for under the Bellwin scheme in the last two years. [313411]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To date, the Lake District National Park Authority has not applied for or received any funding under the Bellwin scheme. In the case of the most recent Bellwin scheme, for the flooding in Cumbria in November 2009, the authority has registered an intention to claim Bellwin assistance but a formal claim has not yet been received.

Cumbria county council has similarly registered an intention to claim Bellwin assistance in respect of the November 2009 floods but has not yet submitted a claim. In addition, the county council applied for and received Bellwin grant in respect of the flooding in Cumbria in January 2005. Cumbria county council received £536,487 for this scheme, which was equal to 85 per cent. of eligible costs above a threshold of 0.2 per cent. of its annual revenue budget.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the average deposit paid by a first-time home-buyer. [307831]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect this information.

Housing: Lone Parents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new additional places in supervised homes the Government plan to fund to house all 16 and 17-year-old single parents. [307067]

Mr. Ian Austin: £30 million capital funding over three years from Communities and Local Government will provide new places in foyers and specialist supported housing through the National Affordable Housing programme.

Local Government and Fire Services: Pensions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provisions relating to public sector pensions announced in the pre-Budget report 2009 will apply to the *(a)* local government and *(b)* firefighters' pension scheme. [311714]

Barbara Follett: The pre-Budget report 2009 stated that cap and share arrangements intended to limit contributions made by employers will apply to the teachers, local government, NHS and civil service pension schemes. Consideration is being given to extending this requirement to the firefighters' pension schemes.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for bringing forward secondary legislation relating to unitary local government restructuring in Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon. [311661]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The period for making representations on unitary proposals ended on 19 January 2010. The Secretary of State is now carefully considering the Boundary Committee's advice, all the representations received and all other relevant information, before taking his statutory decisions which he intends to take as soon as practicable.

If he were to decide to implement any unitary proposal, he intends immediately, or very shortly, after his decision to lay before Parliament a draft of an order, which if approved by Parliament, he would make to give effect to his decision.

We would therefore expect that, subject to parliamentary approval, any new unitary proposals which the Secretary of State decides to implement would be established on 1 April 2011.

Regeneration: Rural Areas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the forum to co-ordinate cross-Government working in coalfield areas met in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and who attended each such meeting. [311658]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since the coalfields forum was established it has met seven times. Details of these meetings are set out as follows.

Date of meeting	*Attending organisations*
12 July 2007	English Partnerships (EP), Communities and Local Government (CLG), Industrial Communities Alliance (ICA), Coalfields regeneration Trust (CRT), Dept for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Big Lottery Fund (BLF), Lottery Forum (LF), Dept for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), Dept for Transport (DFT), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Learning and Skills Council (LSC)
15 November 2007	EP, CLG, ICA, CRT, Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), DWP, Department of Health (DoH), BLF, LF, DCMS, DfT, Home Office (HO), Job Centre Plus (JCP)
9 July 2008	EP, CLG, Segal Quince Wicksteed (SQW), DIUS, ICA, JCP, DoH, BLF, LF, DCMS, CRT, DfT, DWP
12 February 2009	Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), CRT, CLG, ICA, SQW, DfT
20 May 2009	HCA, CRT, CLG, ICA, DWP, DfT
17 September 2009	HCA, CRT, CLG, ICA, Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), LSC, Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency(YF), Wigan local authority
10 December 2009	HCA, CRT, ICA, BIS, DWP, YF, Her Majesty's Treasury, DoH

Repossession Orders: South East

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been repossessed in each *(a)* district, *(b)* county and *(c)* unitary authority area in the south-east in each year since 1990. [313052]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage repossessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2456

The Financial Services Authority data are available on its website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Snow and Ice

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration his Department has given to the effectiveness of local authority distribution of car snow chains to individuals affected by cold weather conditions. [312444]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport has not considered the effectiveness of this measure. Due to the infrequency of severe snow and ice in the UK, snow chains are likely to be used rarely, and only on minor roads where it may be unrealistic to expect local authorities to bear the responsibility of keeping the roads open.

Whether to distribute snow chains is a matter for individual local authorities.

Social Rented Housing: South-East

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built by *(a)* social landlords and *(b)* local authorities for owner occupation in each (i) district, (ii) county and (iii) unitary authority area in the south-east in each year since 1990. [313050]

Mr. Ian Austin: A table containing available information on the number of new build dwellings provided for low cost home ownership by registered social landlords in each local authority area of the south-east region since 1991 has been placed in the House Library. The information is based on the location of the dwelling. These figures are homes offered through the shared equity, shared ownership and intermediate rent schemes.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, some can be provided through acquisitions.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been available for rent from *(a)* social landlords and *(b)* private landlords in each (i) district, (ii) county and (iii) unitary authority area in the south-east in each year since 1990. [313051]

Mr. Ian Austin: The term 'social landlords' has been interpreted to mean local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs).

Information on the stock of dwellings owned by local authorities as at 1 April each year from 1994 is supplied to Communities and Local Government by local authorities on the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and is published in live table 116 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Reliable estimates of the number of local authority-owned dwellings in each district, county and unitary authority are not available for earlier years.

Information on the stock of dwellings owned by RSLs as at 31 March each year is supplied to the Tenants Services Authority by RSLs on the Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) and is published annually from 1997 in live table 115 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140879.xls

Information on the number of homes available for rent from private landlords in each district, county or unitary authority is not held centrally. However, estimates of the number of dwellings in the south-east region available for rent from local authorities, RSLs and private landlords, based on survey data, from 1991 are published in live table 109 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-109.xls

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313400]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not available. The Department evaluates the impact of major programmes and policies countrywide. We do not assess the specific impacts on individual areas.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our research database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor Departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes details of evaluations.

Supported Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the media background briefing note accompanying the Prime Minister's announcement on places in supported housing for 16 and 17-year-old single mothers of 29 September 2009, from what part of the social housing budget funding for those places will be drawn. [308430]

Mr. Ian Austin: Capital funding is being delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing programme budget.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council for England: Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of *(a)* the finance function of his Department and *(b)* the (i) finance function and (ii) IT for Arts Council England referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if he will make a statement. [312678]

Mr. Simon: The Department's annual business planning process includes an assessment of structure, costs and performance, which in addition to its strategic purpose aims to identify improvements to efficiency and effectiveness. Further to this as part of the Operational Efficiency programme DCMS is exploring, with arm's length bodies, including Arts Council England, what more can be done to improve performance and deliver efficiency.

Cultural Heritage: Shipping

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made on the development and implementation of a policy on historic ships; how many historic vessels have been recorded since the publication of the consultation document, Understanding historic vessels; and where each such vessel is located. [310992]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's policy on historic ships was developed in response to the DCMS public consultation on 'Ships for the Nation' in 2003 and the Select Committee hearing on maritime heritage and historic ships in 2004-05. This led to the creation of the advisory committee for national historic ships in July 2006. This committee advises the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on policy and priorities for the historic ships sector; co-ordinates work within the sector to assist those directly engaged in preservation; and promotes public interest in historic ships as a key component of the maritime heritage.

The committee receives revenue funding from the Department. In addition to advising on priorities for the sector, the committee uses its funding to compile and maintain the national register of historic vessels; to provide strategic development grants to assist owners, trusts and societies responsible for vessels included on the national register.

The register for national historic vessels is a database of over 1,000 vessels which can be used to identify and prioritise vessels that should be preserved, provide guidance on how best to allocate funding and give an early warning of any vessels that may be 'at risk'. It allows Government to identify the vessels that are of national and regional significance which may need to be prioritised for long term preservation.

The committee has also created the 'National Ship Preservation Network' which is an online directory of organisations involved in vessel conservation, allowing owners to access up-to-date information about the skills and services available in their area. In addition to this, the committee has published a range of guidelines on preserving, conserving and deconstructing historic vessels.

In 2007, the committee carried out a consultation entitled "Understanding Historic Vessels". As a result of this, they published two guidance documents called "Recording Historic Vessels" and "Deconstructing Historic Vessels". "Recording Historic Vessels" is designed to help vessel owners to create and maintain a record of their vessel so that information about the vessel can be preserved for the future. "Deconstructing Historic Vessels" was designed to help vessel owners carry out any necessary deconstruction work in a way that saves a valuable record of the ship's structure and operational life for future generations. These documents are freely accessible to the public on the Committee's website at:

http://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/pages/advisory-papers.html

There is no central register to track the use of the guidelines or the results of any recordings. It is impossible therefore to determine how many historic vessels have been recorded using the guidelines and where the vessels are located. The committee have applied the methodologies to Golden Galleon before deconstruction and to HMS Bronington (currently located in Birkenhead) ahead of a possible deconstruction programme.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313221]

Mr. Simon: The Royal Parks does not sell information on a commercial basis to companies or individuals in the private sector and other organisations.

It is not possible to provide full information for the extensive range of NDPBs for which my Department is responsible, as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and its agency; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312876]

Mr. Simon: The data supporting this answer are for the year 2008-09 as this is the most recent complete financial year.

In both the Department and the Royal Parks, management layers can be best explained by the existing grading structure. For DCMS, below the permanent secretary, there are seven grades where employees have management responsibilities as part of their normal job role. They consist of the three grade levels within the senior civil service (SCS), and then grades below SCS, grade A (upper), grade A, grade B, and grade C. The most senior grade within the Royal Parks is held by the chief executive officer and the deputy chief executive officer, both of whom are part of the senior civil service. Below them there are four grades where employees have management responsibilities as part of their normal job role. They consist of grade IV board member, grade IV non-board member, grade III and grade II.

The tables set out how many employees are employed at each grade, salary costs, and associated employment costs.

Management layer (including DCMS equivalent)	*DCMS employee numbers*[1]	*DCMS salary costs (£)*	*DCMS associated costs (£)*[2]
SCS 3	[3]<5	n/a	n/a
SCS 2	11	1,086,597	489,403
SCS 1	26	1,758,939	724,369
Grade A upper (grade 6)	21	1,254,641	442,255
Grade A (grade 7)	97	4,527,559	1,683,533
Grade B (SEO/HEO)	199	5,023,509	1,567,718
Grade C (EO)	102	2,336,983	748,718

Management layer (including Royal Parks grade equivalent)	*Royal Parks employee numbers*	*Royal Parks employee costs*[4]
SCS 1 (chief executive and deputy chief executive)	<5	n/a
Grade IV board member (grade 6)	5	262,166
Grade IV (grade 7)	13	1,039,481
Grade III executive (SEO/HEO)	22	851,011
Grade II executive (EO)	38	1,513,714

[1] Employee numbers are an average taken over the 12-month period, so the total headcount for each month added together and then divided by 12.
[2] Associated costs relate to employer's national insurance contributions, pension costs, in year and year end non-consolidated performance related payments.
[3] As the number of employees at SCS 3 is less than 5, figures are not reported due to data protection.
[4] These figures are inclusive of employee associated costs (employers' national insurance contributions, pension costs, in year and year end non-consolidated performance payments).

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on departmental public relations, what services were provided by Edelman; and for how many hours of staff time Edelman charged for those services. [313472]

Mr. Simon: Edelman provided services on the c&binet project. Services included network development, stakeholder engagement (including obtaining speakers), delegate recruitment, website development and content, overarching co-ordination, media engagement, event production and the future development of c&binet.

It is not possible to provide details of staff time charged by Edelman as this information is commercially confidential.

Digital Broadcasting: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the effect of digital switchover of radio on local and community commercial radio stations in Scotland; and if his Department will take steps to ensure the continuing financial viability of such stations after switchover. [312939]

Mr. Simon: No specific assessment has been made of the impact of digital radio switchover on the local commercial and community radio stations in Scotland.

The Government are already taking steps, including meeting small local radio stations to discuss their concerns, to ensure that local radio stations continue to thrive after the digital radio switchover.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with broadcasters to ensure that public service radio broadcasting continues to provide universal coverage to listeners in Scotland after the digital switchover. [312940]

Mr. Simon: Discussions with broadcasters and transmission providers on extending Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) coverage to match the existing FM radio coverage began in the Digital Radio Working Group in 2008. These conversations are ongoing.

Official Hospitality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people attended the c&binet event at The Grove on 26 to 28 October 2009; and how many were *(a)* creative ambassadors, *(b)* speakers and *(c)* representatives of (i) his and (ii) other Government departments. [313576]

Mr. Simon: A total of 303 delegates attended the c&binet event at The Grove on 26 to 28 October 2009.

Of those 303 delegates: 16 were c&binet ambassadors; 65 were speakers, panelists, moderators and contributors; eight were representatives of DCMS; and 17 were representatives of other Government Departments including devolved Administrations.

Many of the speakers, panelists, moderators and contributors also attended and took part in the event other than for the sessions in which they participated.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who attended his meeting with c&binet ambassadors on 27 July 2009; and what expenditure was incurred on *(a)* food, *(b)* drink, *(c)* travel, *(d)* attendance fees and *(e)* other expenses in respect of the meeting. [313577]

Mr. Simon: I attended the meeting with c&binet ambassadors, along with the Secretary of State, three DCMS officials and nine c&binet ambassadors.

Refreshments were provided, at an estimated total cost of £30. No other expenses were incurred.

Snow and Ice

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313584]

Mr. Simon: There were no additional costs to the Department arising from the severe weather in January 2010.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital accident and emergency staff in each region were hospitalised as a result of being assaulted while on duty in each of the last two years. [312314]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of hospital accident and emergency staff in each region hospitalised as a result of being assaulted while on duty is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff in England is contained in the tables showing number of reported physical assaults on national health service staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, broken down by NHS trust/PCT and tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2008-09, broken down by NHS trust/PCT which have already been placed in the Library.

The NHS Security Management Service (SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

Ambulance Services: Snow and Ice

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of recent severe weather conditions on ambulance response times in *(a)* the Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [313157]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service. The NHS, as part of its planning process, ensures operational challenges, such as adverse weather are factored into local contingency plans, including the effect on ambulance response times.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the take-up of the NHS Vascular Checks programme for people aged between 40 and 74; and if he will make a statement. [312621]

Ann Keen: The NHS Health Check programme is a Tier 3 Vital Sign in the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11. Consequently, strategic health authorities play a significant role in monitoring the roll-out of the programme locally. To support national understanding of the pace of implementation of the programme, data will be collected by the Department from 1 April 2010 on the number of people between the ages of 40 and 74 who have received an NHS Health Check. An NHS Health Check data set is also being developed which will enable the national health service to observe the progress of the programme in more detail.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312429]

Phil Hope: The Department spent the following sums in each of the last two full financial years:

New furnishings

	£
2007-08	675,017.65
2008-09	738,032.99

Works of art

	£
2007-08	Nil
2008-09	Nil

The Department acquires any works of art from the Government art collection.

New vehicles

	£
2007-08	Nil
2008-09	Nil

Drugs: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 18 were admitted to hospital with an *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of poisoning by drugs in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [312633]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is in the following tables.

These data include admissions in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector. These data are not a count of 'people' as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion with one of the specified diagnosis codes. Those admitted with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by drugs, may also have had an additional secondary diagnosis of poisoning by drugs.

Count of finished admission episodes where 'poisoning by drugs' was coded in a primary diagnosis field or any secondary diagnosis field, for those aged under 18 by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence for the years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

		2008-09		2007-08		2006-07	
SHA code	*SHA of residence description*	*Primary diagnosis*	*Secondary diagnosis*	*Primary diagnosis*	*Secondary diagnosis*	*Primary diagnosis*	*Secondary diagnosis*
Q30	North-east strategic health authority	1,230	27	1,308	34	1,329	22
Q31	North-west strategic health authority	2,953	67	3,360	111	3,179	118
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority	1,872	55	1,959	53	2,001	76
Q33	East midlands strategic health authority	1,523	42	1,654	50	1,508	40
Q34	West midlands strategic health authority	2,045	46	2,131	46	2,165	45
Q35	East of England strategic health authority	1,263	39	1,371	37	1,331	25
Q36	London strategic health authority	1,666	44	1,738	59	1,650	54
Q37	South-east coast strategic health authority	1,366	42	1,380	31	1,246	34
Q38	South-central strategic health authority	1,285	40	1,295	34	1,265	29
Q39	South-west strategic health authority	1,750	34	1,914	54	1822	54
Q99	Wales	62	1	62	1	44	3
S	Scotland	10	0	8	0	7	0
U	England—not otherwise specified	43	1	49	0	41	2
X	Foreign (incl. Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	20	2	7	1	15	4
Y	Unknown	81	4	149	12	81	9
Z	Northern Ireland	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Total	17,169	444	18,366	523	17,685	515

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Count of finished admission episodes where 'poisoning by drugs' was coded in a primary diagnosis field or any secondary diagnosis field, for those aged under 18 by SHA of residence for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06

		2005-06		*2004-05*	
SHA code	*SHA of residence description*	*Primary diagnosis*	*Secondary diagnosis*	*Primary diagnosis*	*Secondary diagnosis*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	683	18	627	16
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	312	9	325	13
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	309	8	256	6
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	325	29	257	10
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	327	13	293	12
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	426	12	383	15
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	327	7	357	13
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	295	15	249	8
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	703	11	568	15
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	632	9	588	9
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	604	13	554	19
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	824	23	877	19
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	927	26	819	22
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	1,241	40	1,016	32
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	1,029	29	902	34
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	638	10	590	17
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	755	25	656	16
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	540	10	496	8
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	814	22	619	25
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	905	29	755	23
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	562	20	531	11
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	467	15	389	10
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	427	30	381	15
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	907	18	986	23
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	556	10	464	10
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	559	20	542	8
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	1,091	25	951	26
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	624	13	499	14
Q99	Wales	53	1	45	4
S	Scotland	6	0	4	0
U	England—not otherwise specified	56	4	45	4
X	Foreign (incl. Isle of Man & Channel Islands)	13	0	19	1
Y	Unknown	82	6	61	16
Z	Northern Ireland	1	0	0	0
Total		18,020	520	16,103	474

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

The ICD-10 code categories for poisoning (either self-inflicted or accidental), are as follows and include overdose of these substances:

T36: Poisoning by systemic antibiotics

T37: Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics

T38: Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified

T39: Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics

T40: Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens)

T41: Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases

T42: Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs

T43: Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified

T44: Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system

T45: Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified

T46: Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system

T47: Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system

T48: Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system

T49: Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs

T50: Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which countries the NHS has reciprocal arrangements for health treatment. [313579]

Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom has reciprocal health care obligations under European Union regulations, which co-ordinate social security including sickness, maternity and equivalent paternity benefits in kind, in the European Economic Area and Switzerland.

In addition, the United Kingdom has bilateral health care agreements with the following:

Anguilla
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Barbados
Bosnia
British Virgin Islands
Croatia
Falkland Islands
Georgia
Gibraltar
Isle of Man
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Macedonia
Moldova
Montserrat
New Zealand
Russia
Serbia
St. Helena
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Turks and Caicos Islands
Ukraine
Uzbekistan.

Health: Screening

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* pharmacies in England are providing NHS Health Checks to people aged between 40 and 74; [312619]

(2) what systems his Department has in place to assess the use of funding allocated for the implementation of NHS Health Checks. [312620]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts (PCTs) began phased implementation of the NHS Health Check programme in April 2009.

It is for PCTs to decide how to deliver the NHS Health Check programme in a way that best suits the needs of their local population. There are different ways that PCTs may choose to do this and could include the use of general practitioner (GP) surgeries, pharmacies and other community settings, or a combination of these. There is no centrally collected information on how many GP surgeries, pharmacies and other settings are being used to provide NHS Health Checks. Funding for the programme is not ring-fenced and provided as part of general PCT allocations. Data on spend by PCTs on implementing the programme are not collected centrally.

Life Expectancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average life expectancy was for people in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* health authority area in each of the last three years. [311722]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy was for people in each (a) local authority and (b) health authority area in each of the last three years. I am replying in his absence. (311722)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three-year rolling averages, and are published annually by ONS . The tables provide the period life expectancy at birth for males and females in each (a) local authority in England and Wales (Table 1), and *(b)* primary care organisation in England and local health board in Wales (Table 2), for the 2006-08 period (the latest figures available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Livestock: Disease Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons guidance on food chain information for keepers of cattle, sheep and goats regarding procedure for animals sent to slaughter after 1 January 2010 was not issued until 30 December 2009. [312920]

Gillian Merron: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that European Union food hygiene regulations place a responsibility on slaughterhouse operators to request and receive food chain information for all animals sent for slaughter for human consumption. This requirement entered into force for cattle, sheep and goats on 1 January 2010.

In November 2009, the FSA wrote to all slaughterhouse operators to inform them of this responsibility and advise them to contact their livestock suppliers to make appropriate arrangements. In addition, in late November/early December 2009, the FSA undertook a number of initiatives to publicise the new requirements widely including to livestock keepers.

Subsequently, in response to a request from cattle and sheep industry representative bodies, the FSA also collaborated with them to produce guidance for livestock keepers. This guidance was finalised and placed on the FSA website on 23 December 2009:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/foodchaininfofactsheet.pdf.

Hard copies of the guidance were distributed to all slaughterhouse operators and livestock markets on 29 December 2009.

Mental Health Services: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to the provision of cognitive behavioural therapy in the Birmingham area in each of the last three years. [312188]

Phil Hope: Data are not available for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Programme is rolling out new psychological therapy services across England. To date, funds have been allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) as they have established new IAPT services, but from 1 April 2010, funding for IAPT services will be in PCT baselines.

It should also be noted that many PCTs have made further local investment, alongside the centrally allocated funding, to ensure IAPT services serve more people.

In the Birmingham area, three PCTs (Heart of Birmingham, North and East Birmingham, and South Birmingham) have established a single IAPT service with £1.692 million investment of central funds. There has also been significant local investment made alongside this central money. This investment was made in 2009-10, with the services going live in autumn 2009.

Information about any further local investment in cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and IAPT services in primary care settings can be obtained directly from the local PCTs concerned. However, CBT may also be delivered as part of care packages in secondary mental health services, which provide services to those with severe and enduring mental health problems.

Neurology: Children

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the review of paediatric neurological services by the National Specialised Commissioning Group; and what effects he expects the outcomes of the review to have upon service provision at Wessex Neurological Centre. [313413]

Ann Keen: The National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG) has set up a steering group with members from the Society of British Neurological Surgeons, the British Paediatric Neurosurgery Group and other relevant professional associations to review delivery of paediatric neurosurgical services in England. The review is making good progress; it has published draft service standards for discussion with a wide range of stakeholders and is looking at the evidence base for possible reconfiguration of services and potential models of care.

No key decisions on the future planning or delivery of paediatric neurosurgical services in England have yet been made and we cannot prejudge the outcome of the review, but the aim of the review is to ensure safe and sustainable paediatric neurosurgical services for all children in England, and their families, regardless of where they live or which hospital delivers their care.

NHS: Accountancy

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Health Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government on the application to NHS charity funds associated with hospitals in Wales of proposed changes to NHS accounting standards. [312539]

Phil Hope: Ministers have not had any discussion on this issue with the Health Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government.

NHS: Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the merits of extending the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Advice and Trade Unions to include the NHS. [312169]

Ann Keen: We have agreed that the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Advice and Trade Unions should be extended to new and re-let NHS contracts.

NHS: Ministers of Religion

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS on chaplaincy services in each of the last five years; [313181]

(2) how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the national health service on chaplaincy services in 2008-09. [313294]

Phil Hope: National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on chaplaincy and related services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

The Department recognises the important role played by faith organisations in supporting the NHS to deliver multi-faith chaplaincy services and has established a chaplaincy grants programme to fund a range of faith organisations to support health-care chaplaincy. Over the past five years, the total funding made available has been as follows:

	(£)
2009-10	186,000
2008-09	185,000
2007-08	180,000
2006-07	[1]180,000
2005-06	[1]180,000

[1] Approximately

Obesity: Children

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* levels of obesity and *(b)* overall health of schoolchildren in England in each of the last three years. [312315]

Gillian Merron: The Health Survey for England (HSE) 2008 contains information on the percentage of children aged two-15 who are obese in each of the last three years. This information has already been placed in the Library. The data indicate that the prevalence of obesity in children aged two-10 is levelling out. In children aged 11-15 the prevalence has increased.

The NHS Information Centre has undertaken annual surveys of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people aged 11-15, carried out in schools across England. The annual surveys for each of the last three years have been placed in the Library. In addition, trend table 8 in the HSE 2008 contains information on children's general health.

Further information is also collected in the Tellus Survey that asks children and young people questions covering the five Every Child Matters outcomes including the 'Be Healthy' outcome.

Patients

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to evaluate the effectiveness of self-care by patients; what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of self-care among GPs and patients; what educational programmes his Department plans to implement to encourage the early adoption of this approach; and what safeguards are in place to discourage the inappropriate use of self-care by patients diagnosed with conditions which require medical intervention. [312630]

Ann Keen: Patients are routinely asked for their feedback on the support they receive to self-care and its effectiveness through the GP Tracker Survey and the IPSOS MORI self-care survey.

The Department worked with Skills for Health and Skills for Care who published the "Common Core Principles to Support Self Care" (May 2008) setting out the skills attitudes and behaviours to support individuals to self-care. In addition a web-based training module for clinicians and other professionals is available through the national learning management system—"Supporting Self Care" was developed with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Department's e-learning for Healthcare.

Information for patients on self-care choices and service options has been made available with the development of "Your health, your way". This web-based initiative on NHS Choices is supported by a patient information leaflet and information and resources for healthcare professionals. In the recent national Self Care Week (9-15 November 2009) which aimed to raise awareness of "Your health, your way" and the choices of self-care support available, visits to the website doubled.

The Department continues to support and engage with the Expert Patients programme as one of the options to provide education for people with long terms conditions (LTCs) that can help them access services more appropriately and to self-care more effectively. This is in addition to other choices of support in terms of information about the condition, tools and equipment to help people stay independent, access to support groups, and healthy lifestyle advice.

The Department's self-care strategy focuses on supporting people with LTCs through a process of care planning which enables them to take a more active and informed role in decisions about their health and well-being. This includes information, choices, shared decision making and ongoing support to self-care as part of a care planning discussion with their health-care professional. A personalised care plan, developed and regularly reviewed with a lead professional from among the team of staff who help manage their care will mean a person will have more control over the care packages they receive. In this way the chances of any unplanned emergencies or deterioration in that person's condition should be minimised. Information about care plans and care planning is included in the "Your health, your way" and self-care materials.

Perinatal Mortality

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intrapartum deaths of babies occurred in each primary care trust (PCT) in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the population served by each PCT is. [312363]

Ann Keen: The information for 2003-07 has been placed in the Library.

Social Services: Vulnerable Adults

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities provide *(a)* only critical, *(b)* only substantial and *(c)* both critical and substantial care for adults classed as the most vulnerable. [313414]

Phil Hope: The information is not collected centrally.

Information provided by the Care Quality Commission shows that, in 2009, three councils met only critical needs and 107 councils met both critical and substantial needs.

Swine Flu: Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of those diagnosed with swine influenza have received Tamiflu in the last 12-months. [312917]

Gillian Merron: Since the National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) was launched on 23 July 2009 it has been used to assess most people who have swine flu symptoms to determine whether they need an antiviral. If an antiviral is authorised the individual will be given an authorisation number. Between 23 July and 12 January 2010, 1,748,866 people who used the NPFS service were given an authorisation to receive Tamiflu. Of these, 1,125,633 people collected Tamiflu from an antiviral collection point, this is approximately 64 per cent.

These figures relate solely to Tamiflu collected through the NPFS. Data on antivirals distributed through normal primary care routes is still being collated.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department has evaluated on adverse side effects arising from use of vaccines distributed during the current swine influenza epidemic. [312453]

Gillian Merron: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has in place a proactive safety monitoring strategy for the swine influenza vaccines currently in use in the United Kingdom. As part of this, the MHRA established a dedicated reporting system, an adjunct to the existing Yellow Card scheme, for suspected side effects to the vaccines.

The strategy involves daily analysis of all suspected side effect reports, a real-time statistical analysis of the data and weekly publication of its ongoing review on the MHRA website:

www.mhra.gov.uk/swineflu

As well as such data arising from the UK reporting scheme, the MHRA has been fully involved in evaluating similar safety data from across Europe, as well as emerging safety data from ongoing clinical studies.

The MHRA's analysis has so far found that the number and the nature of suspected side effects reported to date accord with expectations. The most frequently reported suspected side effects are injection site reactions (such as pain, swelling, redness), or are well known and common side effects of many vaccines, including the swine flu vaccines (such as nausea, vomiting, dizziness, muscle pain, fever, fatigue, headaches, swollen glands). These are generally mild and short-lasting.

No unexpected or serious new safety issues have been identified from UK and non-UK safety data received to date. The balance of benefits and risks for swine flu vaccines used in the UK remains positive. As with all medicines and vaccines on the UK market, the MHRA will keep the safety of swine flu vaccines under close review.

Transplant Surgery

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what proportion of bone marrow transplant cases was the patient still alive five years after surgery in each of the last five years. [313114]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collected centrally.

Wheelchairs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on wheelchairs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report and proposal made to the NHS Board. [313566]

Phil Hope: The Department is in the process of refining the 2008 proposals for wheelchair services in partnership with the national health service, third sector organisations, service users and other key stakeholders. A multi-agency Wheelchair and Seating Services Advisory Group has been established to co-produce an updated model by April 2010 that reflects recent developments in health and care policy. This revised model will be placed in the Library.

The first meeting of the Advisory Group is scheduled for 26 January 2010.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* internal and *(b)* external reports and proposals produced by the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme. [313567]

Phil Hope: Previous internal and external reports and proposals for Transforming Community Equipment (TCE) focused on the rationale for change and model design. These reports have now been superseded by the implementation phase of the programme, with the focus now being on the production of implementation tools for local authorities and health partnerships. A public summary report, 'Community Equipment Outline Retail Model', was published to the former Care Services Efficiency Delivery website between June 2007 and May 2008. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

The Department is in the process of refining the 2008 proposals for wheelchair services in partnership with the national health service, third sector organisations, service users and other key stakeholders. A multi-agency Wheelchair and Seating Services Advisory Group has been established to co-produce an updated model by April 2010 that reflects recent developments in health and care policy. This revised model will be placed in the Library.

The first meeting of the Advisory Group is scheduled for 26 January 2010.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to answer Question 300302, on departmental pay, tabled on 18 November 2009. [313136]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 544-46W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-36, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, on what date it was agreed with the Afghan government that the 600 Afghan soldiers would be deployed to Helmand; [304938]

(2) pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-36, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, on what date it was agreed with the Afghan government that the further 10 Afghan companies would be deployed to Helmand; [304940]

(3) when he plans to answer question 304940, on the deployment of 10 Afghan companies in Helmand province tabled on 2 December 2009; [311062]

(4) when he plans to answer question 304938 on the deployment of 600 Afghan soldiers in Helmand province tabled on 2 December 2009. [311063]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am sorry for the delay in answering these questions.

On 13 October 2009, the Prime Minister received assurances from President Karzai that Afghan troops would be trained to fight alongside UK forces in Helmand, 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 301. Between then and his statement to the House on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-36, the Prime Minister also discussed the developing situation with President Karzai on a number of occasions.

Air Force: Training

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training hours fast jet pilots spent on average in each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force in each *(a)* year since 2005 and *(b)* month of 2009. [305103]

Bill Rammell: The training hours for fast jet pilots spent on average for each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force for the periods specified are given in the following tables. The information relates to pilots from frontline fast jet squadrons only and includes, in addition to normal frontline flying, the total hours flown while on operations, all of which include some element of training to improve pilot skills. By way of illustration approximately 40 per cent. of the Harrier and 30 per cent. of the Tornado GR4 hours in the table were actually consumed on operations. A proportion of Typhoon and Tornado F3 hours were consumed in the Falkland Islands and performing Quick Reaction Alert missions. All hours include some transit flying to operational theatres and to overseas exercises or training areas. To break down these hours between operational and training would incur disproportionate cost.

Average pilot flying hours for the Hawk training aircraft and the testing, evaluation and conversion training for all fast jet types are not included.

The reduction in flying hours for Tornado F3 in 2008-09 is attributable to the effects of the ongoing withdrawal from service of the fleet.

The reduction in flying hours for Tornado GR4 in 2008-09 is attributable to a variety of factors primarily the availability of aircraft for UK training as maintenance and modification activity was prioritised to deliver aircraft for operations.

Average pilot operational and training flying hours

	FY			
Fast jet type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Jaguar	225	197	[illegible]	[1]—
Tornado F3	204	220	[2]—	122
Tornado GR4	231	265	231	172
Harrier	202	213	226	203
Typhoon	[3]0	163	193	168

[1] Type not in service.

[2] Not available—data for the Tornado F3 are not held centrally for 2007-08; figures for that year could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

[3] The first frontline Typhoon Squadron did not stand up until FY 2006-07.

Average actual monthly front line pilot operational and training flying hours

2009	*Tornado F3*	*Tornado GR4*	*Harrier*[1]	*Typhoon*
April	9	13	18	16
May	7	10	23	14
June	9	12	21	13
July	6	15	12	14
August	9	12	4	12
September	9	17	12	12
October	10	15	8	12

[1] Harrier Force returned from supporting operations in Afghanistan thus flying hours are reduced from June.

Armed Forces: Divorce

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of personnel in each service were *(a)* divorced and *(b)* separated from a spouse in each year since 2001. [312659]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows annual divorce rates and number of divorces for Army and RAF personnel for each year since 1997. Royal Naval data groups 'Separated', 'Divorced' and 'Widowed' together. Separation numbers and percentages cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Army and RAF divorces and rate as a percentage of average married strength: 2001-06

		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]
Army[2]	Number	1,130	1,310	1,210	1,200	1,040	930
	Rate (percentage)	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.9
RAF	Number	620	590	520	580	570	n/a
	Rate (percentage)	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Figures for 2006 are for the 12 month period up to 1 December 2006.

[2] For 2001, annulments are excluded from the calculations for divorce rates, as the information was not available, however the remaining years do include annulments in their calculation.

Notes:

1. Figures are for UK Regular Forces, and exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. Figures are for Trained and Untrained personnel excluding Officer Designates.
2. Rates are calculated as a percentage of the average married strength during the calendar years.

Figures in the form requested are unavailable after 1 December 2006 following the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

Personal marital status is now recorded in a different way in order to determine entitlement to allowances and service families' accommodation. These categories are:

PStat 1—A member of the armed forces who is married or in a registered civil partnership.

PStat 2—A member of the armed forces who has main parental responsibility for dependant children.

PStat 3—A member of the armed forces, not in PStat 1 or 2 who provides financial support to former spouse/partner by voluntary agreement.

PStat 4—A member of the armed forces, not in PStat 1 or 2 who provides financial support to former spouse/partner by way of a court order.

PStat 5—All other members of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes his Department sold in each local authority area in Scotland in each of the last two years; and how many were sold or otherwise transferred to *(a)* the relevant local authority and *(b)* a registered social landlord. [312115]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Service family homes are disposed of when they become surplus to requirements. Details of properties sold in Scotland by each local authority area (LAA) in the last two financial years are as follows:

LAA	*Sold to registered social landlord*	*Sold to local authority*	*Total number of houses sold*
Financial year 2008-09			
Angus council	—	—	4
Highland council	—	—	1
Stirling council	—	—	1
Fife council	22	—	39

LAA	*Sold to registered social landlord*	*Sold to local authority*	*Total number of houses sold*
City of Edinburgh	—	—	17
City of Glasgow	—	—	2
Moray council	—	—	321
Perth and Kinross	—	—	5
East Dunbartonshire council	—	—	2
Midlothian council	15	—	15
Total all areas	37	—	407
Financial year 2009-10			
Fife council	—	—	10
City of Edinburgh	—	—	5
Perth and Kinross council	—	—	1
East Dunbartonshire council	—	—	1
Midlothian council	—	—	7
Shetland Islands council	—	—	3
Total all areas	—	—	27

An additional seven houses in the Midlothian council LAA are in the process of being sold to a registered social landlord.

16 houses in the Moray council LAA have also been leased to Moray council to provide housing for families affected by severe flooding which took place last year.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation units are in each grade in each region of the UK. [312716]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The condition survey of service family accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales is due to be completed by April 2010. Of those properties surveyed, at 31 December 2009 the following are at each Standard for Condition (SfC):

	S1fC		*S2fC*		*S3fC*		*S4fC*	
Zone	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
North	2,203	55.5	1,665	42.0	83	2.0	17	0.4
West (including Wales)	1,453	49.8	1,392	47.7	72	2.5	1	<0.1
East	2,299	48.2	2,339	49.0	127	2.6	6	0.1
South East	2,926	35.7	4,959	60.5	229	2.8	88	1.1
South West	2,503	29.8	5,605	66.8	240	2.8	40	0.5
London	1,334	24.7	3,729	69.1	283	5.2	52	1.0
Totals	12,718	37.8	19,689	58.5	1,034	3.1	204	0.6

Similar surveys of SFA in Scotland and Northern Ireland will be carried out in due course.

Single living accommodation (SLA) is assessed for its Grade for Charge, which sets the level of charges to be paid by occupants. This grade reflects the accommodation's proximity to local facilities like train stations or post offices; local disturbances like aircraft noise as well as the condition of the property. As at December 2008, the latest date for which data are available, UK SLA was at the following grade:

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*	
Government office region	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
East Midlands	1,488	23	809	12	265	4	3,975	61
East of England	3,989	32	2,680	22	2,337	19	3,289	27
London	129	3	1,147	29	654	16	2,066	52
North East	417	16	159	6	1,423	55	611	23
North West	101	8	417	32	737	56	57	4
South East	7,221	19	4,813	12	[illegible],239	11	22,382	58
South West	8,764	29	3,164	10	4,230	14	14,001	46
West Midlands	1,236	19	1,129	17	1,907	29	2,216	34
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,589	31	742	6	2,240	19	5,040	43
Scotland	2,443	33	1,527	21	2,096	28	1,335	18
Northern Ireland	1,445	36	971	24	900	22	717	18
Wales	427	15	489	17	76	3	1,805	65
Grand total	31,249	24.4	18,047	14.1	21,104	16.5	57,494	45.0

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which 50 substitute *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living accommodation properties in Scotland had the highest rent in the last 12 months. [312720]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 348-50W.

Chinook Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report,* columns 99-100WS, on future rotary wing strategy, (1) when he expects to sign contracts for the 22 additional Chinook helicopters; [313259]

(2) whether he expects to order the additional 22 Chinook helicopters through *(a)* foreign military sales orders with the US administration, *(b)* direct commercial purchase from Boeing Company and *(c)* Finmeccanica in Italy; [313289]

(3) whether the additional 22 Chinook helicopters will be fitted with the Julius standard flight deck. [313290]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Work is ongoing on the acquisition of the 22 new Chinook helicopters. It is anticipated that the contract covering preliminary development work and long-lead items for the initial aircraft deliveries will be placed in the coming months once the associated formal investment business case has been approved. The Procurement Strategy, including the procurement route, will be considered as part of the formal investment case. No decision has yet been taken on the cockpit flight deck. The configuration of the aircraft, including the cockpit flight deck, will be determined as part of the initial development work.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306720]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The redeployment pool is used to give redeployment priority to employees who are due to become surplus or who have become surplus due to reorganisation or restructuring. The population of the redeployment pool changes daily as surplus staff find new posts and others give notice that they are due to become surplus. As a snap shot, the numbers in the redeployment pool on the dates specified are provided as follows.

	Number
1 January 2009	937
1 April 2009	709
1 July 2009	682
1 October 2009	734

Staff in the redeployment pool continue to carry out work in the Department while they seek an alternative permanent appointment.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys have been provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department in 2009-10 to date; and at what cost to the public purse. [313173]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In financial year 2009-10 to date, Ministers have been provided with one mobile phone at a cost of £155, and special advisers with one BlackBerry at a cost of £50. All expenditure is in line with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment in cash terms was for senior civil servants in his Department, in each of the last five years. [308055]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Average and highest non-consolidated performance related payments made to senior civil servants in the Ministry of Defence over the last five years are provided in the following tables.

Permanent senior civil servants

£

	Performance year				
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Paid in financial year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Average	5,233	6,511	7,127	8,030	8,177
Highest	12,500	16,000	17,600	[1]17,000	15,000

[1] Payment of £22,500 was available this year but not awarded.

Senior fixed term appointees

£

	Performance year				
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Paid in financial year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Average	7,243	7,850	20,994	25,041	31,890
Highest	14,340	12,546	50,000	50,000	84,563

Haiti: Military Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are plans to deploy elements of *(a)* the NATO Response Force and *(b)* an EU Battlegroup to Haiti. [312719]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* There are currently no plans to deploy elements of the NATO Response Force or an EU Battlegroup to Haiti.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he plans to use HMS Ironduke to assist in the humanitarian effort in Haiti; [312874]

(2) whether he plans to provide support from the military security and stabilisation teams to assist with the humanitarian effort in Haiti. [312875]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister for Veterans on 21 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 439W. The Ministry of Defence continues to take an active role in the UK response, and will provide further assistance where possible if required.

Help for Heroes

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much public funding has been awarded for the rehabilitation work of Help for Heroes *(a)* in total and *(b)* in Wales in each of the last five years. [312237]

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has provided for the rehabilitation work of Help for Heroes in Scotland in each of the last five years. [312721]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Help for Heroes is a service charity which was established in 2007 and which raises funds to support wounded members of the armed forces in a range of different ways. As such it receives no public funding from the MOD. Help for Heroes naturally works closely with my Department on the projects that it chooses to support, but decisions on what those projects should be are a matter for the charity. We are enormously grateful for the major contributions that it is making to the welfare of our service personnel across the country. They include a grant of £8 million to support the building of a new swimming pool and gym complex at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, Surrey, and financial support for the delivery, in partnership with the MOD, of a Pathfinder Army Recovery Centre in Edinburgh.

Milngavie Reservoir: Security

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent discussions or correspondence he has had with representatives of Scottish Water on the security fences around Milngavie reservoir; [310013]

(2) what threat the security fences around Milngavie reservoir are intended to address; and if he will make a statement; [310012]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the requirement for security fences around Milngavie reservoir. [310011]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* This is a devolved matter and is the responsibility of Scottish Ministers, as the Milngavie reservoir is not an MOD site. On this occasion, the MOD's general advisory guidelines on fencing for sites were provided on request to Scottish Water.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: RAF Welford

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects Ministry of Defence Police Agency staff to be withdrawn from RAF Welford; and which organisation will assume responsibility for its security thereafter. [312744]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD police will not be withdrawn from RAF Welford until I am satisfied that other security measures at the base are suitable and appropriate, and do not compromise the overall security of the site. The security duties will then pass to the MOD Guard Service, whose complement will be increased.

Overall responsibility for the security of the site will continue to be exercised by the Head of Establishment.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Training

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether trained recruitment to the Defence Police Agency has ended. [312741]

Mr. Kevan Jones: External recruitment into the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA) has not ended. But, it has been largely suspended for now, pending completion of current reviews of physical security requirement and mindful of other more pressing defence priorities. Some limited recruitment to meet specific operational requirements will be allowed and the Ministry of Defence will continue to place a high importance on the safety and security of their people, infrastructure and assets.

Navy: Greenock

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent under each budgetary heading on running the Navy buildings in Greenock in each of the last five financial years; and what the equivalent budget is for 2009-10; [312385]

(2) what the maintenance costs were for the Navy buildings in Greenock in each of the last five years. [312388]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of the expenditure for running the Royal Navy Buildings Greenock over the last five complete financial years, broken down by budgetary heading, are provided in the following table:

£ million

Budgetary heading	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Utilities[1]	0.112	0.138	0.119	0.103	0.161
Telecommunications	0.111	0.106	0.096	0.086	0.065
Rates[2]	0.066	0.065	0.074	0.065	0.059
Total	0.289	0.309	0.289	0.254	0.285

[1] Includes electricity, gas, water, oil and waste.

[2] Includes cash in lieu of rations—provisions to personnel in the absence of service facilities or food supply.

The equivalent budget for the financial year 2009-10 is £0.337 million.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current estimated value is of the Navy buildings in Greenock; and how much is planned to be spent on redeveloping those buildings. [312386]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of all Ministry of Defence holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations can be found in chapter seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm

The latest figure published for Greenock Navy Buildings is £4.147 million in 2007.

There are no plans to redevelop the Navy buildings in Greenock and only essential maintenance work will be undertaken in the future. Recent estimates of through-life costs required to maintain their material state, suggest that the continued retention of the buildings may not represent best value for money. We are, therefore, looking at options for their future. No decisions will, however, be taken until stakeholders, lodger units and trades unions have been consulted.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* members of the armed forces were employed at the Navy buildings in Greenock in each of the last five years. [312387]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table provides the number of Ministry of Defence personnel employed at the Royal Navy buildings Greenock over the last five years. Not included are personnel attached to the Royal Navy Reserves and Royal Marines Reserves who regularly use the buildings but are not employed there, nor staff employed by non-MOD lodger units, such as the Department for Transport's Maritime Coastguard Agency:

Post[1]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Civilian[2]	40	35	35	35	30
Armed forces[3]	10	10	10	5	[4]—

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Civilian figures do not include any staff not directly employed by MOD.

[3] Armed forces includes all regular trained and untrained personnel and excludes all full-time and mobilised reservists.

[4] Denotes rounded to zero.

RAF Kinloss

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current estimated value is of RAF Kinloss; and how much is planned to be spent on its redevelopment. [312622]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of all Ministry of Defence holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations can be found in Chapter Seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm

The latest figure published for RAF Kinloss is £93.116 million in 2007.

We estimate that some £39 million (at today's costs) will be spent at RAF Kinloss to meet known requirements over the next nine years.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent under each budgetary heading on running RAF Kinloss in Moray in each of the last five financial years; and what the equivalent budget is for 2009-10. [312624]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The direct operating costs for RAF Kinloss since financial year 2004-05 are included in the following table, together with the equivalent budgetary allocation for financial year 2009-10. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.

£ million

	Financial year					
	2004-05 (Actual)	*2005-06 (Actual)*	*2006-07 (Actual)*	*2007-08 (Actual)*	*2008-09 (Actual)*	*2009-10 (Budget)*
Personnel	71.9	69.2	66.6	61.5	61.3	64.0
Infrastructure	5.6	5.7	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.3
Stock consumption	29.7	31.1	24.0	24.5	26.0	17.3
Equipment support	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.1
Other costs	0.8	2.6	2.7	3.4	3.8	3.2
Receipts and other income	-0.6	-0.6	-0.9	-0.8	-1.0	-0.8
Total[1]	108.7	109.3	98.4	95.1	96.7	90.1

[1] Total excludes indirect operating costs such as depreciation and aircraft maintenance contracts for Nimrod aircraft.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* armed forces staff were employed at RAF Kinloss in each of the last five years. [312627]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of civilian staff and armed forces staff employed at RAF Kinloss in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. Prior to 2007 and the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) data on the number of Service personnel based at specific RAF bases were not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

April each year

Personnel	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Civilian	340	320	310	310	310
Armed Forces	n/a	n/a	[1]1,490	[1]1,430	[1]1,380

[1] Data that are provisional and subject to review.

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Armed Forces figures include trained and untrained personnel.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were for RAF Kinloss in each of the last five years. [312628]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Planned and reactive maintenance costs for RAF Kinloss for each of the last five years are provided in the following table:

Maintenance costs

	£ million
2005-06	2.458
2006-07	2.443
2007-08	2.307
2008-09	2.459
2009-10[1]	1.995

[1] Up to November 2009

Projects outside the scope of this response include changes to operational requirements, condition improvements, and lifecycle replacements.

RAF Lossiemouth

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current estimated value is of RAF Lossiemouth; and how much is planned to be spent on its redevelopment. [312623]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of all Ministry of Defence holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations can be found in Chapter Seven of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm

The latest figure published for RAF Lossiemouth is £95.696 million in 2007.

We estimate that some £77 million (at today's prices) will be spent at RAF Lossiemouth over the next nine years to meet known requirements.

In addition a number of options for the development of infrastructure related to the joint combat aircraft are being examined, but costs will not be known until this work is complete.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent under each budgetary heading on running RAF Lossiemouth in Moray in each of the last five financial years; and what the equivalent budget is for 2009-10. [312625]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The direct operating costs for RAF Lossiemouth since financial year 2004-05 are included in the following table, together with the equivalent budgetary allocation for financial year 2009-10. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.

£ million

	Financial years					
	2004-05 (Actual)	*2005-06 (Actual)*	*2006-07 (Actual)*	*2007-08 (Actual)*	*2008-09 (Actual)*	*2009-10 (Budget)*
Personnel	79.2	78.4	77.8	69.2	65.4	68.3
Infrastructure	6.3	6.2	4.9	4.8	4.7	5.6
Stock consumption	22.5	24.9	23.2	31.0	30.9	27.1
Equipment support	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2
Other Costs	1.3	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.9	2.8
Receipts and other income	-0.3	-0.9	-0.8	-1.4	-1.1	-0.5
Total[1]	110.2	112.4	109.3	107.8	105.2	104.5

[1] Total excludes indirect operating costs such as depreciation and aircraft maintenance contracts for Tornado and Sea King aircraft.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* armed forces staff were employed at RAF Lossiemouth in each of the last five years. [312626]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of civilian staff and armed forces staff employed at RAF Lossiemouth in each of the last five years is shown in the table below. Prior to 2007 and the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) data on the number of Service personnel based at specific RAF bases were not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

April each year

Personnel	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Civilian	410	400	380	370	370
Armed Forces	n/a	n/a	[1]2,090	[1]1,770	[1]1,760

[1] Data that are provisional and subject to review.

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Armed forces figures include trained and untrained personnel.

The reduction in armed forces personnel at RAF Lossiemouth resulted mainly from the collocation of maintenance personnel to create the Tornado Dept Hub at RAF Marham in 2007.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were for RAF Lossiemouth in each of the last five years. [312629]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Planned and reactive maintenance costs for RAF Lossiemouth for each of the last five years are provided in the following table:

Maintenance costs

Financial year	*£ million*
2005-06	4.13
2006-07	3.66
2007-08	2.51
2008-09	5.56
2009-10 (up to November 2009)	3.16

Projects outside the scope of this response include changes to operational requirements, condition improvements, and lifecycle replacements.

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of *(a)* the erection of a single-storey extension with bermed earth covering and *(b)* the detached substation with four cooling units developed at RAF Menwith Hill. [312743]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The building works carried out at RAF Menwith Hill were funded by the US authorities.

USA: Military Alliances

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the UK-US Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty to be ratified by the US Congress. [313253]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 740W, to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [312452]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information requested is as follows:

(a) A central record of expenditure under the heading 'new furnishings' is not kept by the Department for International Development (DFID). This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

(b) Works of art displayed in DFID are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. Details of acquisitions made by the GAC are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

(c) DFID spent £1,241,000 in 2006-7, £708,000 in 2007-08 and £1,071,000 in 2008-09 on vehicles. These figures have been extracted from our audited annual Resource Accounts and include expenditure oversees and in the UK.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the US authorities on proposals to drop medical supplies from the air to the people of Haiti; and if he will make a statement. [313467]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is in regular contact with our American counterparts about all aspects of the humanitarian operation in Haiti, including how best to get urgent medical supplies to hospitals and makeshift clinics to treat earthquake survivors. We have deployed a humanitarian adviser to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington to enable coordination between ourselves.

I have been in regular contact with the head of USAID to discuss coordination of the international effort but have not discussed the specific issue in question. Haiti's damaged infrastructure has significantly slowed the delivery of supplies and workers. DFID understands that air delivery is a means the US is exploring to create alternate distribution points that will enable aid to reach people more quickly.

Non-Governmental Organisations: Finance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria were used by his Department for the selection of organisations to participate in *(a)* strategic grant agreements and *(b)* strategic framework partnership agreements since its creation. [312517]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) selected organisations for strategic grant agreements and the strategic framework partnership arrangement for which international development was not a main focus but which demonstrated potential to work constructively and strategically with DFID in reducing poverty.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* terms are of each (i) strategic grant agreement and (ii) strategic framework partnership agreement entered into by his Department since its creation. [312518]

Mr. Michael Foster: The purpose of strategic grant agreements and the strategic framework grant agreement was to enable the recipient organisations to increase their knowledge of international development issues and build their capacity to make an effective contribution to international development. Each agreement contained clear outcomes and implementation procedures. An example of one such agreement is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/sgauklocalgovernalliance.pdf

In addition, a standard memorandum of understanding (MOU) between DFID and the recipient organisations contained terms relating to the use of funds, independent auditing and reporting of financial accounts and evaluation requirements.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria were used by his Department for the selection of organisations to participate in the partnership programme arrangements awarded in 2009; and for what reasons these awards were not subject to competition. [312519]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) entered in to Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs) with three groups in 2009: CIVICUS, Trades Union Congress (TUC) and Comic Relief. All three groups were previously being funded through a variety of separate programme funding arrangements involving considerable staff time and resources. All three groups filled an important niche in civil society not covered by other PPA partners. By supporting these groups through PPAs, we were able to provide assistance more efficiently. There was no benefit to DFID in undertaking a long and costly competitive application process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has provided to tackle antisocial behaviour in Birmingham in the last three years. [312716]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since 2004-05, as with all other crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs), Birmingham was allocated £25,000 a year as a contribution towards funding an ASB Co-ordinator Post. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial behaviour co-ordinators' grant was pooled within the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. This pooled budget supported the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs). As of 2008-09 Home Office funding for local authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour now form part of the general Area Based

Grant (ABG) paid by the Department of Communities and Local Government. This funding has been renewed for the period 2008-11 and it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including tackling antisocial behaviour.

In addition, on 13 October 2009 the Home Secretary announced assistance to 62 priority areas where public perceptions of antisocial behaviour are highest. As Birmingham is a priority area it receives support as well as funding to provide additional services to victims and witnesses of ASB. In 2009-10, Birmingham received £17,000 and £20,000 to be allocated in 2010-11.

There is also wider funding which contributes towards the wider cross-Government strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour, including an additional £10 million announced on 20 November 2009 by the Department for Communities and Local Government to 130 local authorities to support the fight against antisocial behaviour. Birmingham received £54,000 and it is for the local authority in conjunction with the police and other partners to decide how that money can best be spent to tackle antisocial behaviour problems in the area. In addition, the Government are committed to diverting young people from crime and antisocial behaviour as demonstrated by our investment in universal services such as Sure Start Children's Centres, parenting support and positive activities as well as targeted work through the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP).

Burglary

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how domestic burglaries were reported in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since 2006. [313494]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to domestic burglary offences recorded by the police and is given in the table.

Domestic burglary offences recorded by the police

	Number of domestic burglary offences recorded in:		
	South Tyneside	*North-east region*	*England and Wales*
2006-07	606	12,303	292,260
2007-08	489	10,881	280,694
2008-09	424	10,408	284,427

Departmental Advertising

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W, on departmental advertising, what activities accounted for the main areas of expenditure under the *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising category. [313462]

Alan Johnson: The forecast expenditure for advertising activities for 2009-10 relates to spend on TV, radio, print and online advertising on public facing marketing campaign to tackle drug misuse, binge drinking, knife crime, teen partner violence, acquisitive crime and raise awareness of the service to expect from local crime and justice providers.

Detection Rates: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate in Birmingham has been in the last three years. [312780]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office now uses sanction detections as the preferred detection measure. The sanction detection rate for offences detected in the Birmingham area was 27 per cent. in 2006-07, 28 per cent. in 2007-08 and 31 per cent. in 2008-09.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

DNA: Databases

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many convictions for criminal offences evidence from the National DNA database played a material part in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [311556]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* Data are available on the number of detections in which a DNA match was available, but not the number of convictions. The following table shows the number of detections in which a DNA match was available or played a part. Data are collected by financial year, so figures for 2008-09 are the most recent available. The data are for forces in England and Wales only.

The figures held do not include crimes detected as a result of one-off speculative searches of the National DNA Database or from comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory. One off speculative searches and DNA profile comparisons are used mainly in the investigation of serious crimes such as murder and rape, and therefore the figures in the table under-represent the overall contribution of DNA matches to the detection of serious crimes such as murder and rape.

It is important to note that detections are achieved through integrated criminal investigation, not through DNA alone. The source of the figures provided is the forensic performance data, which are collected by the Home Office from police forces.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

	Detections of crimes in which a DNA match was available	*Additional detections arising from DNA match*	*Total DNA-related detections*[1]	*Total recorded crime*
2005-06	20,349	19,960	40,309	5,555,172
2006-07	19,949	21,199	41,148	5,427,558
2007-08	17,614	15,420	33,034	4,951,173

	Detections of crimes in which a DNA match was available	*Additional detections arising from DNA match*	*Total DNA-related detections*[1]	*Total recorded crime*
2008-09	17,607	14,602	32,209	4,702,468

[1] 'DNA detections' and 'Additional detections'

Notes:

1. A 'DNA detection' means that the crime was cleared up and a DNA match was available.
2. 'Additional detections arising from the DNA match' occur when, for example, a suspect, on being presented with DNA evidence linking him to one offence, confesses to further offences. They arise from a crime with a DNA match, and are therefore detections where a DNA match played a part in solving the crime.
3. Total 'DNA-related detections' means 'DNA detections' + 'Additional detections arising from the DNA match'.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the implications of the provisions of the Prüm Treaty for the retention of information on the National DNA Database. [312638]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Work is currently under way on assessing a wide range of issues associated with implementing the UK's Prüm obligations including, among other things, the treatment and safeguarding of relevant data, including DNA information.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue from fines for motoring offences in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales arising from detection by speed cameras was paid into the Consolidated Fund (i) directly and (ii) from surpluses of safety camera partnerships in each of the last 10 years; what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [313155]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information reported to the Home Office on fixed penalty notices for motoring offences as well as data on court fines held by the Ministry of Justice do not include information on revenues as not all fines imposed will have been paid.

Data provided by the Department for Transport showing the fine receipts and surplus for the National Safety Camera Programme from 2000-01 to 2006-07 (when the programme ended) are provided by the table.

The National Safety Camera Programme was rolled out to 38 safety camera partnerships in England and Wales between 2001 and 2004 and had a distinct function—to strengthen detection, enforcement and deterrence of speeding and red light offences at places on the road network with particular problems.

All the fine receipts in the table are paid into the consolidated fund. Data have been provided for Essex and England and Wales only as the data reported to the Department for Transport are provided at police force area level only.

Speed and red-light camera fine receipts and surplus for each year of the National Safety Camera Programme. Data for red-light cameras cannot be disaggregated from those of speed cameras. No data held below Essex geographical level

		£
	Fine receipts	*Surplus*
Essex		
2000-01	1,846,480	0
2001-02	3,524,120	344,816
2002-03	5,672,[illegible]	521,934
2003-04	5,137,7[illegible]	100,447
2004-05	4,710,300	87,887
2005-06	4,732,860	475,670
2006-07	3,917,040	177,186
National Programme (England and Wales)		
2000-01	9,902,760	1,290,967
2001-02	18,799,820	3,412,881
2002-03	73,876,280	16,256,127
2003-04	113,567,780	21,690,421
2004-05	113,729,614	18,649,830
2005-06	114,623,360	15,082,460
2006-07	104,503,784	6,574,030

Note:

The above will not include fine receipts from penalties detected by cameras operated outside the national programme

Driving Under Influence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people of each *(a)* age, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* gender stopped for drink driving (i) tested positive and (ii) refused to provide a breath test in (A) each police authority area and (B) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [312417]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information available can be found in the following tables.

The Breath Tests statistics on how many and what percentage of people of each *(a)* age, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* gender stopped for drink driving are not reported to the Home Office and therefore we are unable to provide this data.

Additionally, data are provided on the number of breath tests 'positive or refused' as it is not possible to separate positive breath tests and refused breath tests from the information reported to the Home Office.

Number of screening breath tests and the number positive/refused, by police force area, England Wales 2003-07[1, 2] and Wales 2003-07[1, 2]

Police force area	*Data*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	Sum of Total Offences	24,492	27,297	21,928	15,779	15,655
	Sum of Positive/Refused	3,297	3,028	3,182	2,735	2,445
	% Positive or refused	13	11	15	17	16
Bedfordshire	Sum of Total Offences	6,633	7,764	6,704	3,093	2,578
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,116	1,143	942	931	1,060
	% Positive or refused	17	15	14	30	41

Number of screening breath tests and the number positive/refused, by police force area, England Wales 2003-07[1, 2]and Wales 2003-07[1, 2]

Police force area	*Data*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cambridgeshire	Sum of Total Offences	12,300	12,300	12,500	12,500	12,000
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1259	1,255	1,313	1,463	1,405
	% Positive or refused	10	10	11	12	12
Cheshire	Sum of Total Offences	11,834	2,0155	22,005	35,747	32,210
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,395	2,430	1,957	2,199	2,046
	% Positive or refused	20	12	9	6	6
Cleveland	Sum of Total Offences	8,716	8,056	10,826	11,308	10,140
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,090	674	732	824	623
	% Positive or refused	13	8	7	7	6
Cumbria	Sum of Total Offences	5,513	8,430	13,577	13,804	16,217
	Sum of Positive/Refused	648	683	819	793	811
	% Positive or refused	12	8	6	6	5
Derbyshire	Sum of Total Offences	32,570	31,023	17,685	16,019	15,873
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,677	2,129	1,325	1,127	996
	% Positive or refused	5	7	7	7	6
Devon and Cornwall	Sum of Total Offences	10,914	10,690	10,423	13,562	16,687
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,959	2,803	2,572	2,617	2,244
	% Positive or refused	27	26	25	19	13
Dorset	Sum of Total Offences	8,484	6,938	7,917	8,706	8,038
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,708	1,683	1,808	1,883	1,828
	% Positive or refused	20	24	23	22	23
Durham	Sum of Total Offences	7,558	6,080	7,734	6,945	8,160
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,135	1,211	1,073	1,055	969
	% Positive or refused	15	20	14	15	12
Dyfed-Powys	Sum of Total Offences	5,982	6,686	6,917	7,291	9,429
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,088	1,061	995	982	887
	% Positive or refused	18	16	14	13	9
Essex	Sum of Total Offences	15,481	25,337	34,249	28,436	25,946
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,736	2,983	2,713	2,788	2,509
	% Positive or refused	18	12	8	10	10
Gloucestershire	Sum of Total Offences	8,647	7,144	9,122	10,090	8,262
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,432	1,281	1,318	1,525	1,354
	% Positive or refused	17	18	14	15	16
Greater Manchester	Sum of Total Offences	20,900	19,900	18,900	18,100	18,025
	Sum of Positive/Refused	7,100	6,300	5,400	5,310	5,225
	% Positive or refused	34	32	29	29	29
Gwent	Sum of Total Offences	2,794	1,632	1,957	1,702	2,374
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,264	1,255	1,204	1,280	1,083
	% Positive or refused	45	77	62	75	46
Hampshire	Sum of Total Offences	37,529	38,399	38,323	34,772	26,208
	Sum of Positive/Refused	3,997	3,802	4,277	3,721	4,513
	% Positive or refused	11	10	11	11	17
Hertfordshire	Sum of Total Offences	4,011	7,289	11,900	12,693	12,030
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,075	2,028	1,868	1,866	1,884
	% Positive or refused	52	28	16	15	16
Humberside	Sum of Total Offences	6,545	5,619	5,717	10,009	11,885
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,542	707	738	1,561	1,052
	% Positive or refused	24	13	13	16	9
Kent	Sum of Total Offences	24,553	32,019	31,187	31,684	28,629
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,983	3,178	2,175	2,237	1,753
	% Positive or refused	12	10	7	7	6
Lancashire	Sum of Total Offences	7,981	10,204	12,990	16,359	19,158
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,882	2,896	2,861	2,949	2,687
	% Positive or refused	36	28	22	18	14
Leicestershire	Sum of Total Offences	12,007	15,799	14,419	9,980	6,644
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,280	2,222	1,954	1,859	1,898
	% Positive or refused	19	14	14	19	29

Number of screening breath tests and the number positive/refused, by police force area, England Wales 2003-07[1, 2]and Wales 2003-07[1,2]

Police force area	*Data*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Lincolnshire	Sum of Total Offences	12,076	11,310	11,431	10,581	14,722
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,065	938	995	1,161	1,101
	% Positive or refused	9	8	9	11	7
London, City of	Sum of Total Offences	1,237	683	1,117	1,553	1,375
	Sum of Positive/Refused	239	136	184	250	209
	% Positive or refused	19	20	16	16	15
Merseyside	Sum of Total Offences	7,722	5,019	8,003	10,642	12,829
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,299	2,281	2,090	1,966	1,931
	% Positive or refused	30	45	26	18	15
Metropolitan Police	Sum of Total Offences	55,993	61,535	67,461	65,025	66,919
	Sum of Positive/Refused	16,049	15,719	16,677	18,447	17,273
	% Positive or refused	29	26	25	28	26
Norfolk	Sum of Total Offences	4,030	4,805	10,367	7,844	6,366
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,208	989	1,046	1,389	1,203
	% Positive or refused	30	21	10	18	19
North Wales	Sum of Total Offences	1,7337	24,177	21,812	19,597	23,034
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,363	1,434	1,370	1,142	1,721
	% Positive or refused	8	6	6	6	7
North Yorkshire	Sum of Total Offences	8,254	8,589	9,339	10,129	10,526
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,169	1,494	1,422	1,283	1,280
	% Positive or refused	14	17	15	13	12
Northamptonshire	Sum of Total Offences	3,126	3,200	5,196	4,259	4,076
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,265	1,215	1,133	1,328	1,321
	% Positive or refused	40	38	22	31	32
Northumbria	Sum of Total Offences	11,123	9,776	9,301	7,992	7,392
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,580	2,184	,632	2,637	2,391
	% Positive or refused	23	22	28	33	32
Nottinghamshire	Sum of Total Offences	7,146	8,241	7,923	7,172	7,250
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,456	2,508	2,445	2,320	2,258
	% Positive or refused	34	30	31	32	31
South Wales	Sum of Total Offences	16,863	16,733	16,269	17,087	19,013
	Sum of Positive/Refused	3,003	3,020	2,985	2,782	2,475
	% Positive or refused	18	18	18	16	13
South Yorkshire	Sum of Total Offences	12,117	6,494	13,689	10,267	11,390
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,793	,419	3,712	2,854	2,622
	% Positive or refused	15	37	27	28	23
Staffordshire	Sum of Total Offences	5,073	13,666	14,322	12,723	12,369
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,849	1,892	1,870	1,806	1,681
	% Positive or refused	36	14	13	14	14
Suffolk	Sum of Total Offences	11,566	10,569	8,854	9,059	10,435
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,332	1,197	1,017	1,005	790
	% Positive or refused	12	11	11	11	8
Surrey	Sum of Total Offences	8,858	9,484	9,605	8,278	6,915
	Sum of Positive/Refused	941	1,067	1,043	870	701
	% Positive or refused	11	11	11	11	10
Sussex	Sum of Total Offences	17,150	15,210	17,983	18,742	16,805
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,992	2,193	2,231	2,223	1,795
	% Positive or refused	12	14	12	12	11
Thames Valley	Sum of Total Offences	16,049	15,363	14,629	13,538	14,850
	Sum of Positive/Refused	6,303	3,965	5,873	3,821	3,488
	% Positive or refused	39	26	40	28	23
Warwickshire	Sum of Total Offences	5,848	5,496	4,820	4,458	4,877
	Sum of Positive/Refused	865	738	785	589	421
	% Positive or refused	15	13	16	13	9
West Mercia	Sum of Total Offences	6,289	7,991	8,833	11,267	10,438
	Sum of Positive/Refused	2,419	2,430	2,696	2,505	2,177
	% Positive or refused	38	30	31	22	21

Number of screening breath tests and the number positive/refused, by police force area. England Wales 2003-07[1, 2]and Wales 2003-07[1, 2]

Police force area	*Data*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
West Midlands	Sum of Total Offences	10,960	6,579	6,900	6,229	5,611
	Sum of Positive/Refused	4,765	4,830	4,919	4,584	4,223
	% Positive or refused	43	73	71	74	75
West Yorkshire	Sum of Total Offences	14,157	16,921	15,367	18,011	18,724
	Sum of Positive/Refused	3,563	4288	4,686	5,928	6,427
	% Positive or refused	25	25	30	33	34
Wiltshire	Sum of Total Offences	5,867	7,398	7,167	8,708	7,688
	Sum of Positive/Refused	1,150	1,331	1,247	1,135	830
	% Positive or refused	20	18	17	13	11
England and Wales	Sum of Total Offences	53,4285	578000	607368	601740	599,752
	Sum of Positive/Refused	106,349	103,020	104,284	103,730	97,590
	% Positive or refused	20	18	17	17	16

[1] Figures for 2006 revised since previous publication.

[2] Figures for 'positive/refused' contain some data on prosecutions for failing a breath test where shortfalls were found in the data supplied to the Home Office. The police forces affected are: Bedfordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, Essex, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, South Wales and Staffordshire. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces' data between 1998 and 2006.

Table 5.01: Screening breath tests by outcome: England and Wales

Number (thousand) and percentage

Outcome	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total number of tests	534.3	578	607.4	601.7	599.8
Number positive or refused[2]	106.3	103.0	104.3	103.7	97.6
% Positive or refused	20	18	17	17	16

[1] Figures for 2006 revised since previous publication.

[2] Figures for 'positive/refused' contain some data on prosecutions for failing a breath test where shortfalls were found in the data supplied to the Home Office. The police forces affected are: Bedfordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, Essex, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, South Wales and Staffordshire. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces' data between 1998 and 2006.

Drugs: Crime

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what offences his Department classifies as drug-related crime. [312837]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department does not classify drug-related crimes as it is not always possible to establish an association with drug use when crimes are being recorded. The Department deems it more useful to draw on a number of data sources which provide information on the relationship between drugs and crime. Relevant research is routinely made available on the departmental website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/horrpubs.html

The Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) is the guidance issued to all police forces in England and Wales on the recording of crime.

A list of specific drugs offences that are notifiable to the Department can be found in the Drug Offences section of the HOCR. A copy can be found on the departmental website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

Public Service Agreement 25, indicator three (Rate of Drug-related Offending) is a proxy measure for drug related offending, defined for this purpose as:

> "proven offending by those identified as Class A drug misusers in the course of their contact with the CJS."

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are on the drug rehabilitation requirements scheme. [311953]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) is the primary means for sentenced offenders to address their drug misuse as part of a community order or suspended sentence order.

The most recent analysis of the caseload found that on 30 June 2009 there were 9,465 community orders with a DRR, 3,220 suspended sentence orders with a DRR and 43 drug treatment and testing orders, the predecessor of the DRR, in force. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Firearms

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* Torbay constituency have been (i) killed and (ii) wounded by a firearm in each year since 1997. [312395]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information relates to crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been fired or used as a blunt instrument resulting in fatal, serious and slight injury. Data for England and the Devon and Cornwall police force area, from 1997-98 up to and including 2008-09, are given in the table. Constituency and county level data are not collected centrally.

Full analysis of firearm offence statistics for 2008-09 was published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/10 on 21 January 2010, available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0110.pdf

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] resulting in injury, by degree of injury, England total and Devon and Cornwall police force area, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	Injury type		
	Fatal injury	*Serious[2] injury*	*Slight injury*
1997-98			
England	52	202	543
Devon and Cornwall	1	0	4
1998-99[3]			
England	50	158	649
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	23
1999-2000			
England	62	199	925
Devon and Cornwall	1	2	21
2000-01			
England	71	239	1,036
Devon and Cornwall	1	0	9
2001-02[4]			
England	94	391	1,370
Devon and Cornwall	—	0	5
2002-03[5]			
England	78	414	1,627
Devon and Cornwall	—	1	10
2003-04			
England	68	432	1,813
Devon and Cornwall	2	0	22
2004-05[6]			
England	76	404	3,300
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	92
2005-06			
England	48	473	3,206
Devon and Cornwall	—	0	72
2006-07			
England	56	405	2,450
Devon and Cornwall	—	1	57
2007-08			
England	53	398	2,703
Devon and Cornwall	—	1	49
2008-09			
England	35	320	1,367
Devon and Cornwall	1	4	20

[1] Where firearms have been fired or used as a blunt instrument.
[2] A serious injury is the one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.
[3] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[4] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[5] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[6] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Fly Tipping: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for an offence of flytipping in each London borough since 1997. [312764]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Waste management offences are not notifiable offences and therefore do not form a part of this collection.

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of people found guilty at all courts for 'fly-tipping', England and Wales 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the table.

The Ministry of Justice advise that court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for 'fly tipping'[1], England and Wales 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

	Number
1997	250
1998	304
1999	324
2000	411
2001	446
2002	557
2003	624
2004	791
2005	931
2006	1,102
2007	1,218

[1] Covers offences under sections 33(6),33(8),33(9),34 and 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.
Ref: IOS 036-10

Identity Cards

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Minister took the decision to extend the scope of the Manchester area identity cards pilot scheme. [308692]

Meg Hillier: In a written ministerial statement on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 12WS, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced plans to extend the initial coverage of identity cards from Greater Manchester to other locations in the North West of England from early in 2010. In a further written ministerial statement on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 112WS, I confirmed the plans for this next phase of the roll out.

National Identity Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what suppliers there are under the Identity Card and National Identity Register's framework agreement. [312177]

Meg Hillier: The suppliers that are included in the Strategic Supplier Framework agreement for the National Identity Service are:

Computer Sciences Ltd. (CSC)
Electronic Data Systems Ltd. (EDS)
Fujitsu Services Ltd. (Fujitsu)
IBM United Kingdom (IBM)
Thales UK Ltd.

EDS was acquired by Hewlett-Packard in 2008.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which public bodies personal data held on the National Identity Register may be provided. [312375]

Meg Hillier: The Identity Cards Act 2006, and secondary legislation made under the Act, sets out who may be provided with information from an individual's entry on the register and under what circumstances. In particular, the Identity Cards Act 2006 (Provision of Information without Consent) Regulations 2009, and the Identity Cards Act 2006 (Information and Code of Practice on Penalties) Order 2009 prescribe the Government Departments and public authorities that currently may be provided with information without the consent of the individual.

National Mobile Phone Crime Unit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit (NMPCU) incurred in each year since 2003; and how many people were employed by NMPCU in each such year. [312080]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is presented in the following tables.

Staff levels each year for the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit

Rank	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Police officers							
Detective Supt	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Detective Chief Inspector	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Inspector	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Detective Inspector	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Police Sergeant	2	3	2	1	1	1	1
Detective Sergeant	3	2	2	4	3	4	4
Police Constable	6	10	9	8	6	7	6
Detective Constable	3	4	6	8	8	7	6
Total officers	16	22	23	25	22	23	20
Police staff							
Band B	—	2	2	2	2	1	1
Band C	—	0	0	0	0	1	1
Band D	—	1	2	2	2	2	2
Band E	—	6	6	7	8	8	6
Total police staff	0	9	10	11	12	12	10

Expenditure details for National Mobile Phone Crime Unit

£

	Sep 2003 to Mar 2004	*Apr 2004 to Mar 2005*	*Apr 2005 to Mar 2006*	*Apr 2006 to Mar 2007*	*Apr 2007 to Mar 2008*	*Apr 2008 to Mar 2009*	*Apr 2009 to Dec 2009*
Police pay	349,541.55	1,146,792.23	1,076,007.78	1,418,737.52	1,400,876.62	1,525,640.93	1,049,766.19
Police staff pay	0.00	310,923.78	373,443.50	432,484.45	460,430.83	418,733.49	349,001.96
Police overtime	92,668.68	104,297.93	297,447.39	311,103.39	194,432.31	143,850.16	85,845.93
Police staff overtime	0.00	14,079.99	13,822.91	5,401.03	5,724.65	5,808.46	16,138.46
Training budget	2,350.00	8,109.51	20,972.36	44,803.14	33,085.12	50,500.61	0.00
Transport costs	40,528.19	161,247.36	118,975.37	140,727.15	111,637.60	134,786.15	64,649.54
Supplies and services	242,433.73	294,993.60	210,887.91	236,618.22	231,842.91	229,709.90	136,375.13
Total spent	727,522.15	2,040,444.40	2,111,557.22	2,589,874.90	2,438,030.04	2,509,029.70	1,701,777.21

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the minimum standards of investigation for mobile telephone crime referred to on the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit are. [312106]

Alan Johnson: The National Mobile Phone Crime Unit acts as a co-ordinator between industry, police and other law enforcement agencies.

There is a good practice guide concerning all aspects of mobile phone crime that is disseminated to Forces in England and Wales. This guide is available to every police force in England and Wales. The NMPCU advise that their guidance on investigation covers a wide range of topics, from how to identify stolen phones and how to obtain forensic information from them, to prisoners' property and property found in searches.

Forces have received training and have an appointed single point of contact (SPOC) who liaises with NMPCU and can enlist tailored assistance from them as and when the Force considers it to be necessary.

Passports: Biometrics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 416W, on passports: fees and charges on which date fingerprint biometric passports will be introduced. [311766]

Alan Johnson: While a precise date has not yet been set, we plan to start issuing fingerprint biometric passports from 2012, so that every adult who decides to apply for a British passport will be offered the choice of being issued with a fingerprint biometric passport or a fingerprint biometric identity card or both documents all on a voluntary basis.

Passports: Fingerprints

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to begin issuing passports containing fingerprint data; and how many such passports it expects to issue in each of the five years following their introduction. [310655]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 January 2010]*: The National Identity Service will provide the capability to enrol people on the National Identity Register and issue second generation passports and identity cards, capable of holding facial images and fingerprints. From 2012, once fingerprint biometric passports are introduced we intend that everyone should have the choice of having a fingerprint biometric passport, a fingerprint biometric identity card, or both documents with their identity details and biometrics recorded on the National Identity Register.

The National Identity Service cost report shows the total volume of passports and identity cards predicted to be issued each year over the cost report period. As published in the October 2009 National Identity Service cost report, over the time period April 2012 to March 2017, we expect to have issued approximately 49 million products (48.7 is the total in the October cost report—p7).

Police: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were assigned to duties in Birmingham in the last three years. [312778]

Mr. Hanson: The available data can be seen in the following table.

Police personnel statistics are not collected at the requested level. Data are collected at basic command unit level (which is equivalent to operational command units in west midlands). Data have been provided for the west midlands operational command units covering the Birmingham area (D1 to D2, E1 to E3 and F1 to F3).

This and other related data are published annually as a supplementary part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer and police community support officer strength, basic command units covering the Birmingham area, as at 31 March[1]

Number

	2007		*2008*		*2009*	
West midlands	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*
D1	371	30	381	40	387	50
D2	343	29	336	34	335	37
D3	401	25	399	31	418	39
E1	325	27	342	35	330	37
E2	306	25	310	28	305	29
E3	286	26	293	26	314	33
F1	376	23	384	26	385	26
F2	297	28	302	31	300	32
F3	307	25	317	27	333	38
Total	3,012	238	3,065	278	3,106	319

[1] Police Personnel data are not collected at the requested level. Data are collected at basic command unit level (which is equivalent to operational command units in west midlands). Data have been provided for the west midlands operational command units covering the Birmingham area (D1 to D2, E1 to E3 and F1 to F3).

[2] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers have been employed in (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the North East and (iii) England and Wales in each year since 2008. [313488]

Mr. Hanson: The available data can be seen in the following table.

This and other related data are published annually as a supplementary part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer and police community support officer strength, South Tyneside, north-east, England and Wales, as at 31 March[1]

	2008		2009	
	Officer	*PCSO*	*Officer*	*PCSO*
South Tyneside	341	24	357	27
North-East	7,307	585	7,455	628
England and Wales	141,859	15,805	143,770	16,507

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Sex Establishments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* lap dancing clubs and *(b)* sex establishments in operation in each region in each year since 1997. [313022]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Stop and Search: Greater London

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and searches have been carried out by the Metropolitan police under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since 2003-04; and how many such searches resulted in arrests for *(a)* possession of an offensive weapon or dangerous instrument and *(b)* other reasons. [313042]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the table.

Table 1: To show stop and searches made by Metropolitan police under section 60 of the Criminal justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resulting arrests

	Searches	*Number of persons found to be carrying offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*	*Arrests for offensive weapons*	*Arrests for other reasons*
2003-04	4,359	19	29	122
2004-05	3,480	14	19	101
2005-06	5,584	75	50	149
2006-07	16,917	136	93	528
2007-08	17,471	135	84	544

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313394]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has introduced a range of policies and initiatives since 1997. However, it is not always possible to quantify their effects particularly at constituency level. The available statistical information therefore relates to the London borough of Lambeth.

In terms of police recorded crime in Lambeth, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 35 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person: down 14 per cent.

Sexual offences: down 20 per cent.

Robbery: down 46 per cent.

Burglary: down 39 per cent.

Offences against vehicles: down 56 per cent.

Other theft offences: down 38 per cent.

Criminal damage: down 43 per cent.

Drug offences: up 33 per cent.

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at borough level are available prior to 1998-99. Lambeth Operational Command Unit had 1,010 police officers as at 30 September 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 174 since 2001. Comparisons with 1997 for Lambeth are not available. There were 170 police community support officers as at 30 September 2009 whilst there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP). The CDRP has brought new ways of working in a cross cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

The CDRP paved the way for the Safer Neighbourhoods initiatives where there is now a dedicated police resource in each of the 21 wards in Lambeth which were not in place in 1997.

Lambeth's CDRP and wider partnership approach has been recognised as good practice and overall crime levels continue to reduce: there was a reduction in the seven consecutive years up to 2009.

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Lambeth have adopted a borough-wide controlled drinking zone which is now in operation.

In 1997, there were 40 CCTV cameras in Lambeth and since then two main schemes have been developed increasing CCTV to 966 cameras. The Town Centre scheme has 133 cameras and 833 in housing estates and there are additionally Transport for London cameras.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of an offence under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since 2001; and what the sentence was in each case. [313346]

Mr. Hanson: There is no chargeable offence under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. An authorisation under section 44 allows officers to stop and search vehicles and persons within vehicles (section 44(1)), and pedestrians (section 44(2)). The power conferred allows an officer to search for articles of a kind which could be used in connection with terrorism, whether or not there are grounds for suspecting the presence of such articles (sections 45(1) and (2)).

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what advertising campaigns her Office has been responsible for in each of the last three years; which campaigns have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10 to date; and what the cost of each such campaign has been [312055]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since the Government Equalities Office was created in October 2007, we have run three campaigns. The first was to encourage more Black, Asian and minority ethnic women to become councillors, from July 2008 to July 2009, at a cost of around £89,000. The second was to raise awareness of new flexible working rights between April and September 2009, at a cost of around £126,000. The third is to encourage more women, people from ethnic minorities, and disabled people to apply for public appointments. This campaign started in November 2009 and will end in March 2010 at an estimated cost of £150,000.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in the Government Equalities Office in each year since its inception. [306422]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since its creation on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has awarded the following staff bonuses.

	Number of bonuses	*Total of bonuses (£)*
2007-08	25	37,787
2008-09	19	28,400
2009-10	67	58,850

Equality: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will consult fire and rescue authorities on the likely effects on them of the duty to tackle socio-economic disadvantage proposed in the Equality Bill. [312881]

Michael Jabez Foster: Yes. The Government will be writing to the chairs of the fire and rescue authorities about this issue shortly.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the *(a)* Department, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies for which he has responsibility plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign for cutting carbon usage; and if he will publish the research or criteria on which decisions about participation in the campaign have been based. [312470]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change signed up to the 10:10 campaign on 18 November 2009. The Department has an ongoing Greening DECC programme to reduce its energy consumption and increase its overall sustainability, and in July 2009, as part of its Low Carbon Transition Plan, DECC committed to a 10 per cent. reduction in its carbon emissions in this financial year (2009-10), with more to come in 2010. The 10:10 campaign fits well with this work.

DECC does not have any agencies.

The decision to sign up to the 10:10 campaign and to publish the justification for that decision is for each individual NDPB.

Departmental Information Officers

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* press officers and *(b)* communications staff were employed by his Department on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [311632]

Joan Ruddock: There were 10 press officers in DECC as at 15 January 2010, all of them permanent full-time staff.

There were 35 other communications staff, including ministerial correspondence drafters, as at 15 January 2010, comprising 26 permanent staff and nine contractors or other temporary staff. Figures for part-time staff are included in this figure and are given in terms of their full-time equivalent.

The cost of all DECC communications staff in 2008-09 including press officers was £512,000, but note that this relates to the period from October 2008, as prior to this costs were divided between BIS and DEFRA (the Departments from which DECC's original teams were drawn), for which disaggregated figures for DECC's predecessor teams are not available.

Nuclear Power: Security

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason the Office of Civil Nuclear Security has *(a)* stood down the armed response at Capenhurst and Springfield nuclear sites and *(b)* downgraded the security level at each. [313578]

Mr. Kidney: Security in the UK's civil nuclear industry is stringently regulated by the security regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS). Operators of civil licensed sites are required by law to have in place a range of security measures required under the UK's Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 as amended. OCNS conducts routine and no notice compliance inspections to ensure that sites remain compliant. The UK's civil nuclear security regulator has, for many years, chosen to take account of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s guidelines in setting security standards at the UK's civil licensed nuclear sites. The civil licensed nuclear sites at Capenhurst and Springfields are category III nuclear sites as defined by the IAEA and in the nuclear industries security regulations and the security measures at each site meet or exceed guidelines approved by the IAEA. It is not usual for category III sites, with the exception of nuclear generating stations, to have an armed response present at them. Police officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary have not been routinely armed at Capenhurst and Springfields since January 2007.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the reason for the cost of *(a)* the finance function and *(b)* the human resources function of the Central Office of Information referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if she will make a statement. [312679]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information (COI) to write to the hon. Member.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Communications Electronic Security Group

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the Communications Electronic Security Group Annual Report for *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [312277]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

No annual report has been produced by the Communications Electronic Security Group (CESG) since 2006. There is no statutory requirement for CESG to produce such reports.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the percentage change is in the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants resident in *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Kent between 1997 and the latest period for which figures are available. [313508]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the percentage change is in the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants resident in (a) Ashford and (b) Kent between 1997 and the latest period for which figures are available. (313508).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Figures have been provided for those people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the Ashford constituency and Kent local authority using figures for December 2009, the latest date for which data is available, and December 1997. The percentage change in the number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants, are increases for both (a) Ashford 15.7 per cent and (b) Kent 2.9 per

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

National Income: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the gross domestic product per head of the resident population of the City of Portsmouth was in each year since 1992. [313071]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the gross domestic product (GDP) per head of the resident population in the City of Portsmouth in each year since 1992 (313071).

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional Gross Value Added (GVA) rather than GDP. GVA is measured at current basic prices, which is GDP less taxes on products, plus subsidies on products. The data are produced at three geographical levels using a European classification system called NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics). GVA by NUTS3 regions, (principally individual counties and unitary authorities) has been calculated since 1995. The latest year for which GVA is published at NUTS3 level is 2007.

The headline estimates for the Portsmouth NUTS3 area, which corresponds to the Portsmouth local authority area, shown as £ per head figures, for the period 1995-2007 are shown in the table below:

Portsmouth NUTS3 area

	GVA per head (£)
1995	11,159
1996	12,021
1997	12,937
1998	13,869
1999	14,615
2000	15,342
2001	16,416
2002	17,457
2003	18,381
2004	19,030
2005	19,482
2006	20,378
2007	21,154

Source:
Table 3.2, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/NUTS3.xls

Unemployment

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how people who do not qualify for contribution-based or income-based jobseeker's allowance but are claiming Class 1 national insurance credits, attend Jobcentre and remain available for and actively seeking employment are *(a)* recorded or *(b)* otherwise accounted for in the monthly labour market statistics. [313103]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether people who do not qualify for contribution-based or income-based jobseeker's allowance but are claiming Class 1 national insurance credits and attend the Jobcentre and remain available for and actively seeking employment are included within the official claimant count. [313104]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each month since January 2008; and how many of those were in receipt of (i) contributory, (ii) income-based and (iii) credits-only JSA. [313212]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 26 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each month since January 2008; and how many of those were in receipt of (i) contributory, (ii) income-based and (iii) credits-only JSA (313212).

Due to the large amount of data requested there would be a disproportionate cost to provide all the requested estimates. As an alternative, in table 1, we have provided the total number of people claiming JSA for December of each year since 1997 along with a breakdown of each type of claim. These estimates have been derived using data from the Jobcentre Plus 5 per cent. cohort. This is a sample of the Jobcentre Plus administrative system and as such the total number of claimants will differ from that published in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by type of claim

December each year	*Contribution and income based*	*Contribution based*	*Income based*	*National insurance credits only*	*Not available*	*Total*
1997	15,200	94,920	1,050,660	155,440	31,660	1,347,880
1998	18,920	103,700	954,120	148,880	35,660	1,261,280
1999	10,940	88,640	879,200	129,300	360	1,108,440
2000	11,280	92,140	773,000	112,080	320	988,820
2001	10,920	109,360	684,420	117,080	320	922,100
2002	9,300	101,980	658,960	114,220	320	884,780
2003	8,480	98,420	633,300	111,560	320	852,080
2004	7,400	87,680	583,040	100,100	320	778,540
2005	6,720	96,000	662,300	109,060	320	874,400
2006	7,180	89,780	682,920	106,020	320	886,220
2007	7,6[illegible]0	124,080	752,620	124,260	320	1,008,900
2008	23,240	247,460	1,109,560	175,920	320	1,556,500

[1]. Estimates are based on a 5 per cent. sample of computerised claims. All claims have been weighted by a factor of 20 to represent the population.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus 5 per cent. Cohort

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the British missions in Afghanistan and Pakistan on improving postal services to British citizens working in Afghanistan. [309736]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* As stated in our travel advice, conditions in Afghanistan mean we are only able to provide a very limited consular service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not offer a poste restante service, and although we recommend that British citizens abroad register with our Locate service which we would also use as a key tool in any major crisis, we are aware that many people choose not to and so do not hold records of all citizens in Afghanistan. It is the responsibility of the individual or their employer to ensure that sufficient arrangements are in place for their mail and other support services in Afghanistan.

For civilians working for Her Majesty's Government, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in common with other UK Government Departments, utilises the

This is a longstanding arrangement, separate to that for servicemen in Afghanistan, which is also used to supply our other posts across the globe.

Afghanistan: Women

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to UN Security Council Resolution 1325, what steps the Government is taking to ensure women from civil society participate fully in the forthcoming Afghanistan Conference. [313045]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Two representatives of Afghan Civil Society, one of them a woman, have been invited to attend and address the London Conference. They will present the conclusions of the Civil Society Event to be held on 26 January 2010, which will be attended by other members of Afghan civil society, including approximately six women and eight men from Afghanistan.

Ahmed Mahmoud Haddi

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will direct HM Ambassador in Rabat to investigate the abduction of Ahmed Mahmoud Haddi on 28 October 2009

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials from our embassy in Rabat have been making inquiries about the alleged abduction of Ahmed Mahmoud Haddi after receiving reports from concerned members of the public.

There are reports that he has been arrested, charged with criminal offences and is on remand in Oukasha prison in Casablanca. Officials in the UK and Rabat have been in touch with concerned non-governmental organizations about this case and will continue to maintain these lines of communication.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Travel Information

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his Department's amended travel advice for Bosnia-Herzegovina issued on 12 January 2010, what assessment he has made of *(a)* the threat from terrorism in Bosnia-Herzegovina and *(b)* the respects in which Bosnia-Herzegovina differs from other countries in the region; and if he will make a statement. [311590]

David Miliband: The 12 January 2010 amendments to the Travel Advice for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) related to the removal of Swine flu advice. There have been no recent incidents of terrorism in BiH and the advice on terrorism has remained unchanged. Countries are assessed on an individual basis and the level is determined by several sources including the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, security and intelligence agencies, local knowledge and reporting from our embassies. Travel advice is continually monitored.

The current terrorist threat level for Bosnia and Herzegovina is "underlying", meaning there is a low level of known terrorist activity. The threat level for BiH is the same as for those countries which border it.

China: Human Rights

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the latest round of the UK-China human rights dialogue did not take place. [312710]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue took place on 12 January 2009. The next round had been due to take place in early January 2010. The Chinese postponed the dialogue, claiming technical reasons. We have said to them that we do not understand the reason for postponement and have urged them to agree dates for the next round of the dialogue as soon as possible.

China: International Broadcasting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese government on its policy towards the Sound of Hope radio network. [312987]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Restrictions on freedom of expression in China are a real concern. We have funded practical work with grassroots organisations and journalists to encourage greater freedom. We have serious concerns about the mistreatment of Falun Gong adherents and

We last raised our concerns about Falun Gong practitioners at the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue on 12-13 January 2009. We will raise this issue again at the next round of our Human Rights Dialogue.

Cyprus: Community Relations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution of the Stelios Award for business co-operation to the Government's policy objectives in respect of bi-communal relations in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [313035]

Chris Bryant: The Government welcome the Stelios awards for business co-operation as a very positive example of how bi-communal events can bring Greek and Turkish Cypriots together. Our high commission in Nicosia actively supported the initiative, hosting a networking event at the high commissioner's residence in July 2009 for members of the Cypriot business community looking to compete in the award. High commission staff were also active in promoting the awards, providing media support and advice for the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation's own public relations team and making sure the event got as much publicity as possible.

Cyprus: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for the renewal of the UNFICYP mandate and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1898; and if he will make a statement. [313037]

Chris Bryant: The UK voted in favour of UN Security Council Resolution 1898, which extended the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) mandate until 15 June 2010. The UK supported this resolution to enable UNFICYP to continue its mission of maintaining stability in the buffer zone and supporting the UN Secretary General's Good Offices Mission. The resolution can be found at:

http://www.uncyprustalks.org/media/SC%20Resolutions/SC_Res_1898_Dec_09.pdf

Cyprus: Politics and Government

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in Turkey's EU accession process; and what his latest assessment is of the effects of such accession on Cyprus. [R] [312838]

Chris Bryant: The European Commission's Turkey 2009 Progress Report, released in October 2009, recognised genuine Turkish progress, for instance in addressing the Kurdish issue and improving energy security, but noted that renewed efforts on further reform were needed. Turkey recently opened Chapter 27—Environment at the Accession Conference in December last year. The Government believe that Turkish accession to the EU would have positive benefits for a re-unified Cyprus and enhance regional security and stability. The Government commitment to a Cyprus settlement based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation with political equality, composed of two constituent states.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the outcome of the case of Apostolides *v.* Orams on progress towards a settlement in Cyprus. [313036]

Chris Bryant: The Government recognise the importance of this verdict, which is a legal rather than a political decision. Ultimately the sensitive issue of property can only be entirely solved by a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. We continue to support fully the two leaders in their attempts to achieve this.

Cyprus: Property

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review the advice on his Department's website concerning the purchase of property in northern Cyprus in light of the Court of Appeal judgment in Apostolides *v.* Orams; and if he will make a statement. [312930]

Chris Bryant: Yes.

Darfur

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposal by the African Union Eminent Persons group for the establishment of hybrid courts to try persons charged with war crimes in Darfur. [310666]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have welcomed the report by the African Union Panel on Darfur (AUPD) led by former President Mbeki which included a recommendation for the establishment of hybrid courts to try those accused of atrocities in Darfur.

There are some points within the report with which we do not agree, and others, including the proposal for hybrid courts, on which further details are needed. However, our overall assessment is that the report is thorough, detailed and balanced, with a frank analysis of causes and consequences of the conflict.

We will continue to support the work of the Mbeki-led High-level Implementation Panel, which was established to take forward the report's recommendations, and encourage effective co-ordination with existing organisations working for peace in Sudan. We will work with the AU and other international organisations on those areas within the AUPD report which still need further consideration.

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313187]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which websites his Department's staff are prevented from accessing from departmental networked computers. [311468]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to my hon. Friend the Member for Luton, South (Margaret Moran) on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 142W.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) complies with the policies set out in the Government's Security Policy Framework (SPF), particularly Mandatory Requirement (MR) 39. MR 39 requires Departments to comply with the requirements of any Codes of Connection, including technical and procedural policies to manage the risks posed by all forms of malicious software.

The number of websites covered by this policy is large and is kept under constant review. It is therefore not practical to provide an exhaustive list of all websites blocked. However, access to the following categories of website are banned in order to comply with the SPF, the FCO's Acceptable Use Policy and to control bandwidth demands on the FCO's corporate infrastructure:

those that contain viruses, trojans or other malicious software;

sites that by-pass anti-virus defences;

pornography and hate sites;

gaming, gambling and social networking sites;

bandwidth intensive sites which place excessive demands on the FCO's corporate infrastructure.

The FCO will consider requests to access sites that fall under banned categories if there is a strong business need for them and they do not pose a risk to the corporate network.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1029W, on departmental manpower, what change there has been in the number of locally-engaged staff at the UK post in *(a)* Washington, *(b)* Istanbul, *(c)* Abuja, *(d)* Accra, *(e)* Amman, *(f)* Ankara, *(g)* Beijing, *(h)* Brussels, *(i)* Lagos, *(j)* Moscow and *(k)* Madrid since the withdrawal of the overseas price mechanism. [311483]

David Miliband: As I made clear in my previous answer, historic information on local staff numbers is not held centrally. We are compiling the information and I will write to the right hon. Member.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312827]

Chris Bryant: The number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff in each management level is shown in Table 20 of Civil Service Statistics, published by the Office of National Statistics in January 2010.

The total salary cost, including social security and pension costs, for FY2008-09 is shown on Page 125 of Volume Two of the FCO Departmental Report and Resource Accounts, 1 April 2008—31 March 2009 (HC 460—II, 30 June 2009).

Copies of both reports are placed in the Library of the House.

We do not currently produce reports showing pay cost by management level and these could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has received from the US administration in the last 12 months on the (i) present and (ii) future budgets for his Department's programmes. [313474]

David Miliband: My officials and I have regular and wide ranging consultations with the US, as well as other countries and international organisations. It is not our policy to provide details of such discussions.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has and with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect of the abolition of the overseas price mechanism on the budgets of his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [313475]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with Treasury *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the 2009-10 financial year to discuss proposed in-year reductions to his Department's budgets for (i) counter-terrorism programmes in Pakistan, (ii) counter-radicalisation programmes in Pakistan and (iii) counter-narcotics programmes in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [313477]

David Miliband: I refer to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) today.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budgetary estimates were made for his Department's expenditure on *(a)* counter-terrorism programmes in Pakistan, *(b)* counter-radicalisation programmes in Pakistan and *(c)* counter-narcotics programmes in Afghanistan in April 2009; and what his most recent estimate is of the outturn of each. [313476]

David Miliband: Within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overall counter-terrorism spending, Pakistan is the top priority, reflecting the scale of the threat to our security from that country, and is the largest single recipient of funding. We are not cutting spending on counter-terrorism, or on counter-terrorism in Pakistan. Those budgets have increased in real terms year on year. In 2009-10 the Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme's Pakistan spend is £8.2 million compared with £6.3 million in 2008-09. This represented an increase of 30 per cent. on the previous year's figure.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which programmes operated by his Department have had their estimated budget for 2009-10 as planned in April 2009 reduced in-year; what the *(a)* original budget and *(b)* present estimated outturn is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [313478]

David Miliband: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office budgets are reviewed regularly during the course of the financial year in the light of changing priorities, availability of resources and effectiveness of delivery. Outturns will be dependent on a variety of factors, including exchange rate movements. Audited accounts will be published in the normal way.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 1225W, on departmental training, how many face-to-face training places his Department will provide for its staff in financial year 2010-11; and what change this represents on the previous financial year. [311591]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to investing in FCO staff training and development. This will be focussed on meeting business needs, for example through improving the FCO's international policy skills and increasing performance management training. We will make final decisions on the number of face-to-face training places we provide in 2010-11 in light of the resources available.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the evidence of the Permanent Under-Secretary to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 9 December 2009, HC 145-i, question 10, what guidance has been given to the heads of overseas posts on expenditure on *(a)* travel and *(b)* hospitality; and if he will make a statement. [311593]

David Miliband: Decisions on local budget spending including expenditure on travel and hospitality, are devolved to delegated budget holders and are made in the light of budgets available. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Foreign and Commonwealth Office guidance underlines that all staff should travel by the most appropriate means to ensure maximum efficiency and value for money. Spending on hospitality has to be in line with objectives and approved by line managers.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the evidence of the Permanent Under-Secretary to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 9 December 2009, HC 145-i, question 10, at which overseas posts programme activity has been stopped; and what estimate he has made of the aggregate expenditure not incurred as a result. [311594]

David Miliband: In 2009-10, programme activity has been stopped in Berne, Madrid, Reykjavik, Stockholm, and Valletta. Our estimate of the aggregate expenditure not incurred as a result is £39,560.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the evidence of the Permanent Under-Secretary to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 9 December 2009, HC 145-i, question 26, what plans he has for further reductions in the number of overseas posts; and which posts will be affected. [311595]

David Miliband: The Government are absolutely committed to a world-class and comprehensive diplomatic service that is a credit to the UK. The fall in the exchange rate has affected the purchasing power of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office budget. I am working with colleagues to address next year's budget, and will report when those discussions are complete. I am committed to ensuring that as a result of these discussions we will be able both to fulfil our historic responsibilities and to pursue our modern priorities.

Diplomatic Service: Pay

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 192W, on departmental manpower, what the main findings were of the joint pay review in each of the five UK overseas missions that have completed the exercise; and if he will make a statement. [311505]

David Miliband: The joint pay review referred to in the answer of 5 January 2010 was conducted in the following five Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)/ Department for International Development (DFID) co-located posts:

Addis Ababa
Kampala
Lusaka
Nairobi
Sana'a.

New Delhi has now also completed its review. The reviews found that the pay and non-pay benefits of FCO and DFID locally engaged staff were broadly aligned with the local market comparators in most posts. Where there were divergences, both organisations have taken steps to bring salaries within the mid-market range and good progress has been made in this respect. Upwards of 85 per cent. of non-pay terms and conditions of service in most locations which completed the exercise have been aligned with local market practice immediately. This fulfils the overall objective of the exercise to harmonise as closely as possible FCO/DFID local staff pay and conditions of service with local market comparators.

European Council

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the attendance of foreign ministers of EU member states at meetings of the European Council; and if he will make a statement. [312231]

Chris Bryant: The Treaty is clear that the European Council comprises the Heads of State or Government of the 27 member states of the EU, chaired by the President of the European Council and with the President of the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy also in attendance. The Treaty also makes clear that members of the European Council can decide to be assisted by another Minister "where the agenda so requires". The European Council at its December 2009 meeting discussed the issue, and Foreign Ministers are likely to attend the European Council at least once a year.

Hornby System

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued to his Department's staff on the Hornby system for claiming for foreign travel. [312158]

Chris Bryant: As the guidance on this is regularly updated and is currently under review, it would not be appropriate to place a hard copy in the House of Commons Library, but I have placed there a broad explanation of the travel package principles.

Indonesia: Falun Gong

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Indonesian government on its decision not to grant a licence to the Sound of Hope radio network. [312986]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to make representations regarding the broadcasting licence of the Sound of Hope's radio station in Indonesia—Radio Erabaru. The decision to withdraw the licence is being challenged in the Indonesian courts. Indonesia has a dynamic and relatively free press and remains the only country in south-east Asia classed as 'free' by Freedom House.

Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Bill

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions officials in his Department have had with the US administration on the passage of the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Bill; and what his policy is on the passage of the legislation. [311599]

David Miliband: The UK, with international partners including the US, pursues the dual track strategy of dialogue and pressure with regard to Iran's nuclear programme. Sanctions have an important role to play in this approach. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have discussed draft versions of this Bill in broad terms with the US administration and Congressional staff and will continue to do so as it proceeds. They have explained that though the UK supports the adoption of effective sanctions, it has concerns about extraterritorial legislation.

Lebanon: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Lebanon. [311406]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our aim is to work with the Lebanese Government to support reform inside Lebanon and peace in the wider region.

The Lebanese Parliament's vote of confidence in the national unity Government led by Prime Minister Saad Hariri is a positive development for both the people of Lebanon and the region.

We call on the new Government to make implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 a top priority.

We welcome the new Government's commitment to economic reform and we are encouraging the Government to focus on the benchmarks set in the EU's Neighbourhood Action Plan, and the benchmarks for Lebanese accession to the World Trade Organisation.

Members: Correspondence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer the letter from the hon. Member for Romsey of 2 September 2009, on an enquiry made on behalf of her constituents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cook. [313144]

Chris Bryant: The letter from the hon. Member was transferred to, and accepted by, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) on 12 November 2009. The MOJ has already replied to the letter.

Morocco

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to discourage UK residents from purchasing properties inside those Moroccan settlements in Western Sahara which are deemed to be illegal; and if he will estimate the number of houses in such settlements owned by UK nationals. [312309]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UK residents who are considering purchasing properties in Morocco or the disputed territory of Western Sahara should seek independent qualified legal advice. The UK Government do not hold information on the number of UK residents who buy property overseas.

Official Visits

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's role is in the arrangements for foreign visits on official business by Ministers from other Departments. [312447]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its network of diplomatic missions support the planning, delivery and security of many official visits overseas by Ministers from other Departments, in support of the Government's policies and international priorities.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the restrictions on access into Gaza of aid and reconstruction materials on the prospects for progress in negotiations on peace in the Middle East; and if he will make a statement. [311403]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK remains extremely concerned by the Gaza border restrictions imposed by the Israeli Government and continues to call for those restrictions to be eased further. We, along with our international allies, will continue to work for peace in the Middle East. It is imperative to create hope and a vision of Israel and a viable Palestinian State living as neighbours in peace and security.

Pirates: Hostages

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British-owned and registered vessels have been captured by pirates in the Gulf of Aden and the surrounding ocean in the last 12 months; how many *(a)* passengers and *(b)* crew of each nationality were on board each such ship at the time of capture; and what steps are being taken to ensure their safe return. [312731]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last 12 months there have been three British-owned and registered ships captured by pirates. The yacht Lynn Rival was hijacked near the Seychelles on 23 October 2009 with two UK nationals on board. The British-flagged MV St. James Park was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden on 28 December 2009 and the MV Asian Glory was hijacked in the Indian Ocean on 3 January 2010. Neither vessel had any UK nationals on board.

According to information received from the shipping company, the crew breakdowns are as follows:

St. James Park: Bulgaria five, Georgia one, India six, Philippines three, Poland one, Romania two, Russia three, Turkey three and Ukraine two.

Asian Glory: Bulgaria eight, India five, Romania two and Ukraine 10.

Contact is being maintained with the affected ship owners. Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff are in contact with the Chandler family and we are offering them full consular support.

In addition to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 999W, we are supporting strongly international action to combat piracy at sea, militarily and through close co-operation with industry, through support for regional capability development and through action to address the underlying causes of instability and lack of rule of law on land.

Polisario Front

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Minister last met persons working on behalf of the Polisario Front. [312351]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Independent Diplomat and discussed Western Sahara in January 2008. Officials in London also regularly meet with the Polisario's representative in the UK. There have been no further ministerial meetings with people working on behalf of the Polisario Front. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials from London and the UK's Mission to the UN meet regularly with Independent Diplomat, with the last meeting being in December 2009.

Somalia: Piracy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of progress towards securing the release of Paul and Rachel Chandler who have been kidnapped by Somali pirates. [312799]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* We are monitoring the situation very closely and doing everything we properly can to help secure a release. Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular staff are in regular contact with the Chandlers' next of kin and are offering support.

We will continue to use political and other contacts in the region, including the Somali Government (Transitional Federal Government). Government policy is that we do not make substantive concessions to hostage-takers, including the payment of ransoms.

Soviet Union of Funds

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department received on the alleged donation by the former Soviet Union of funds to UK-based organisations between 1980 and 1989. [312884]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and to collate would incur disproportionate cost.

Sri Lanka: Elections

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role independent international election monitors will play in Sri Lanka's forthcoming elections; and if he will make a statement. [311849]

David Miliband: A Commonwealth Expert Team will visit Sri Lanka for the presidential election on 26 January 2010. Its mandate is to assess the overall conduct of the electoral process and the environment in which the election is conducted. Two other independent international organisations are expected to send teams to Sri Lanka for the presidential election on 26 January: the Association of Asian Election Authorities; and the Asian Network for Free Elections. Exact details of their activities have not yet been announced.

The Government are also providing funding to help support the work of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence, an independent Sri Lankan election monitoring body. We continue to encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to take measures to ensure the election is free and fair. I wrote to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 11 January 2010 to urge his Government to ensure effective measures are in place to prevent and control election related violence, as well as ensuring the Election Commissioner's rulings are implemented effectively by the police and other authorities.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek to ensure the complete implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; what assistance the UK plans to provide in co-operation with other countries for elections and referendums in the next 18 months in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [311851]

David Miliband: On 9 January my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister re-emphasised the UK's commitment to the complete implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. On 8 January 2010 I joined Troika colleagues to urge greater efforts in Sudan and from the international community. Both statements can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news

My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock visited Sudan from 11 to 13 January 2010 and emphasised the need for strong political leadership from all parties to ensure credible elections in April, agreeing the terms of the referendum in January 2011 and for work to start on post 2011 issues such as oil sharing, regardless of the outcome of the referendum. The UK will continue to press on these issues at every level.

The UK recently committed an additional £8 million to support elections in Sudan bringing our total contribution so far to £12.5 million. This assistance will help with technical preparations, civic and voter education and conflict management. We are also pressing the European Commission to deploy an election observation mission to Sudan ahead of the elections.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Southern Sudan on its proposal to set up a Southern Sudan Referendum Committee. [312614]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My noble Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead, urged the Government of National Unity (GNU) to accelerate progress on preparations for the referendum during her visit to Sudan between 10 and 13 January 2010.

We are pleased that agreement was reached on the Referendum Bill in December 2009. The next stage will be for the GNU to establish the Referendum Commission and appoint Commissioners to take forward practical and technical preparations for the referendum. We are looking at what support we will provide to the Commission in this regard.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Southern Sudan on the steps to be taken to ensure that parties other than the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement have sufficient capacity to be able to contest the forthcoming elections. [312615]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During her recent visit to Sudan between 11 and 13 January 2010, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead, underlined in Juba, as she had in Khartoum, the need for political freedoms, noting reports of harassment of National Congress Party members and reports that some southern opposition leaders had not been allowed to operate in the South. Baroness Kinnock received assurances from the government of Southern Sudan that all registered parties were free to campaign in the South.

Syrian Arab Republic: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Syria. [311405]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our aim is to work with Syria to ensure it plays a constructive and stabilising role in the region, to support trade and economic development and to improve its human rights record at home.

Western Sahara

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to recognise Moroccan sovereignty of the Western Sahara. [312848]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government regard the status of the disputed non self-governing territory of Western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. In this regard, the Government fully support the efforts of Christopher Ross, the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he most recently met UK human rights and peace groups working on Western Saharan issues. [312350]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not recently met UK based non-governmental organisations to discuss the Western Sahara specifically.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly meet such groups, with the last such meeting being with the Western Sahara Campaign on 19 January 2010.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Carers

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many households in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency a child under the age of 18 years fulfils the role of a carer for a disabled parent. [312201]

Dawn Primarolo: Precise local and national data on the number of children under the age of 18 years caring for a disabled parent are not collected centrally.

Children's Play: Devon

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided for the enhancement of public play facilities in *(a)* Torbay constituency and *(b)* Devon in the last 12 months. [312860]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the commitments made in the Children's Plan in 2007 and the national play strategy in 2008, every top-tier local authority in England is now receiving funding through the play capital investment programme.

Of the 152 top-tier local authorities, 30 are play pathfinder authorities and the remaining 122 local authorities are all playbuilder authorities. On average every play pathfinder authority will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding, while playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding, over the current spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Play pathfinder authorities will use their allocated funding to deliver a minimum of 28 play areas plus a new staffed adventure playground, while playbuilder authorities will deliver a minimum of 22 play areas by 2011. The play areas that are delivered can be either completely new areas or existing areas which are significantly refurbished.

Local authorities have joined the programme, and so started receiving their funding, in two phases: Wave 1 started in April 2008 and Wave 2 in April 2009. Torbay and Devon are both Wave 2 playbuilder authorities and as such are required to deliver 11 play areas each in both 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The following tables show the capital and revenue funding allocated to Torbay and Devon during 2009-10, with indicative allocations for 2010-11 which will be confirmed in February 2010.

Decisions on where the allocated capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on grant requirements around improved play spaces being provided where they are most needed and based on a robust consultation process with local children and young people, families and wider communities.

We are encouraging all Members of Parliament to proactively engage with their local play capital programmes as they roll out, and we are asking local authorities to ensure that their local Members of Parliament and council elected members are appropriately consulted, and briefed, about where the capital funding is spent.

Local authority	*Capital funding (£)* 2009-10	*Capital funding (£)* 2010-11	*Revenue funding (£)* 2009-10	*Revenue funding (£)* 2010-11
Torbay	529,078	596,381	27,372	18,248
Devon	535,178	603,256	27,554	18,370

Class Sizes: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Lewes constituency and (ii) East Sussex in (A) 1997 and (B) 2009. [312420]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the table.

LA maintained primary and state funded secondary[1] schools: Average class size[2]

	Lewes		*East Sussex[3]*	
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
1997	27.8	21.3	28.2	21.4
2009	26.9	23.5	27.2	21.6

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies. Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

[3] East Sussex in 1997 in pre local government reorganisation and therefore includes schools in Brighton and Hove.

Source:
School census

Class Sizes: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in schools in Torbay constituency was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [312396]

Mr. Coaker: The average class size of maintained primary schools in Torbay was 29.1 in 1997 and 27.2 in 2009; the figures for state funded secondary[1] schools were 21.4 and 20.6 respectively.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, city technology colleges and academies.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department spent on extending the pre-school entitlement to two year olds in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [309219]

(2) how much funding his Department expects to allocate to extend the pre-school entitlement to two year olds in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [309203]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* Funding allocated to support the Free Early Learning and Childcare offer to the most disadvantaged two-year-olds is as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	20
2009-10	61
2010-11	76

We are committed to rolling out a free entitlement to two-year-olds, stage by stage. The most disadvantaged two-year-olds in every local authority can already access a free place of at least 10 hours a week, 38 weeks per year. Decisions regarding future funding settlements will be taken as part of the next spending review.

Pupils: Bullying

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to prevent children from being stigmatised as witches. [312562]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government issued guidance on 'Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession' in May 2007. The guidance provides advice to agencies working with children to help them identify and deal with abuse that may be linked to a belief in spirit possession, following the processes set out in the core Government guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. The guidance also advises local agencies and institutions to work to minimise risk of harm by building trust and understanding of child abuse issues with local communities.

School Leaving: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects his Department to spend in each area of expenditure on raising the education and training leaving age in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [306823]

Mr. Iain Wright: Raising the participation age will bring benefits for young people, the economy and wider society. Continuing in learning post 16 means young people are more likely to achieve higher levels of qualifications and to have increased earnings over their lifetime, better health and improved social skills. This in turn contributes to a more highly skilled, productive and internationally competitive workforce, with net benefits estimated at an additional £1.6 billion for each cohort of young people affected by RPA.

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families recently announced a record level of investment of £8.2bn in 16-18 learning for 2010-11. It was also announced that the budget for 16-18 learning would increase by 0.9 per cent. in real terms in 2011-12 and 2012-13 in preparation for raising of the participation age. Funding beyond this period is subject to future spending reviews.

To further support preparations for raising the participation age, trials are underway in 11 local areas to develop innovative local practice. Building on existing good practice the Department for Children, Schools and Families has recently published "Raising the Participation Age: supporting local areas to deliver" which sets out the key actions at national and local levels to support raising the participation age. This includes:

> Ensuring all children are prepared for success through new pupil and parent guarantees, a new secondary curriculum, one-to-one tuition and dissemination of good practice to tackle disengagement during key stage 3;
>
> Delivering a high quality and engaging learning offer to all young people through diplomas, general qualifications, apprenticeships and foundation learning with an additional £20 million being invested in foundation learning for key

stage 4 learners in 2010-11. We will also work with employers to ensure there is a high quality offer for young people who choose to learn alongside full-time employment;

Providing young people with the support they need to participate, for instance through a learning and support agreement approach that bring together the young person's learning goals, how their needs will be met, the contribution of different agencies and the actions the young person will undertake;

Enabling all local areas to deliver RPA for example through the transfer to local authorities of the 16-19 participation budget and the sharing and development of good practice from an expansion of the RPA trial areas during 2010-11.

Specialised Diplomas: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people are studying for 14 to 19 diplomas in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire in academic year 2009-10. [306619]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 14 to 19 diploma was introduced in the academic year 2008/09. Data for this year were published via the DCSF website on 11 November 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000888/index.shtml

We do not expect the 2009/10 figures by parliamentary constituency to be available until end November 2010 at the earliest.

The number of learners who participated in a course of study towards a diploma for all or part of the academic year 2008/09 in *(a)* the Leeds, West parliamentary constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire, up to and including 31 August 2009, as identified by the number of diploma learners registered on the QCDA Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS) data is:

	Number
Leeds, West	38
West Yorkshire	324

10 diploma subjects are currently available, a further seven will be phased in over a period to 2012.

Supervised Homes

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new places in supervised homes have been created for *(a)* 16 and 17 year olds who are parents and *(b)* all 16 and 17 year olds since September 2009. [308794]

Dawn Primarolo: The information in the table has been provided by the Homes and Communities Agency about the commitment of funding allocations to provide expected units of supported housing directed at young people.

Allocations (not spend) and estimated outputs made from the National Affordable Housing Programme up to 10 December 2009

Client group	*Grant (£)*	*Units of accommodation*
Teenage Parents	3,228,924	43
Young People at risk	6,562,003	134
Young people leaving care	90,000	2
Total for supported housing young people	9,880,927	179

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he has had with British Telecom to discuss funding for next generation broadband services since 1 June 2009. [313471]

Ian Lucas: The Minister for Digital Media has had one introductory meeting with British Telecom since August 2009, where a range of topics was discussed including funding for next generation broadband services.

Business Links

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have received a health check from Business Link to date. [309659]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Between the announcement of the free Business Link 'Health Check' on 23 October 2008 and 30 November (the date of the most recent figures), over 103,000 unique businesses have benefited from a 'Health Check'.

Communication Service Providers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with Ofcom on consumer access to third party services from all *(a)* next generation and *(b)* public communication networks. [311874]

Mr. Timms: The Department has regular discussions with Ofcom across a range of subject areas, including access to third party services over communication networks. I provided some details of a recent case concerning 118 directory enquiry providers in reply to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey (Derek Wyatt). In addition, officials from my Department have discussed with Ofcom regulation of third parties' ability to use BT's network to provide a service, including BT's next generation access network. The Department has also discussed with Ofcom issues relating to the openness of the internet, including in the context of European discussions.

Decisions on regulation of access to communications networks remain a matter for the regulator.

Companies House: Expenditure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of the *(a)* finance function and *(b)* IT of Companies House referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if he will make a statement. [312686]

Ian Lucas: I have not made a specific assessment of these costs but Companies House's total costs and efficiencies form part of my annual assessment of its performance. In comparison with other Government organisations, Companies House is a customer-facing delivery agency which bases its services on a modern IT platform, web-based interfaces and finance processes and resources which support its customers (such as invoice billing and credit control). These functions are not generally needed in all of the Government organisations against which Companies House is compared in the Benchmarking the Back Office report.

Companies House is, however, working hard to realise efficiencies. The Business Plan for 2010-11 shows IT costs at 60 per cent. of those in the year benchmarked.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people his Department employs to maintain its participation in social media and networking sites; and what estimate he has made of the cost of employing such staff in the latest period for which figures are available. [310873]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not employ anyone specifically to maintain its participation in social media and networking sites. The Digital Communications team supports policy officials and Ministers to engage and inform a broad range of audiences using digital channels which include social media. Currently four individuals are involved as a small part of their total duties in managing the Department's presence on social websites Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. On average the work is that of approximately 0.2 full-time equivalent staff. Taking into account the grades of the individuals, the total the cost of this staff time is estimated as £668 per month.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [312451]

Mr. McFadden: This Department's published Annual Report and Accounts contain information on its tangible fixed assets, which includes an additions category entitled 'furniture, fixtures and fittings'. These accounts can be found on the BIS website at the following address:

www.bis.gov.uk

The previous three published accounts are available on the website as follows:

Department of Trade and Industry Annual Report and Accounts 2006/07 (HC 584) Chapter 5, Note 14;

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Annual Report and Accounts 2007/08 (HC757) Chapter 5, Note 14;

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Annual Report and Accounts 2008/09 (HC 447) Chapter 5, Note 15.

BIS has not procured any art or new vehicles in any of the last three years.

Employment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people aged between 16 and 24 years were not in education, employment and training in the fourth quarter of 2009. [311731]

Kevin Brennan: Labour Force Survey data, used to estimate the number of people not in employment, education or training, are not yet available for quarter 4 2009.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) publishes the above estimates every quarter and the latest information can be found at the following website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000890/NEETQtrBriefQ32009.pdf

Estimates for quarter 4 2009 will be published on 25 February 2010.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people normally resident in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide enrolled at university in each year since 2007-08. [313483]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is provided in the table.

Enrolments1 from Jarrow constituency2, South Tyneside local authority2, the north-east of England Government office region2 and England: UK higher education institutions, academic years 2007/08 and 2008/09

Academic year	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North-east	England
2007/08	2,170	3,870	78,995	1,610,605
2008/09	2,285	4,040	82,245	1,669,985

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency, local authority and Government office region of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency

Higher Education: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applicants from *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area did not get a place at university in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [312480]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: The information is in the following table:

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS from West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority area

	Year of entry	
	2008	*2009*
West Chelmsford constituency		
Applicants	814	975
Of which:		
Obtained a place	675	788
Unplaced	139	187
Chelmsford local authority		
Applicants	1,244	1,489
Of which:		
Obtained a place	1,026	1,211
Unplaced	218	278

Restaurants: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies are registered under UK standard industry classification codes for restaurants in *(a)* Hampshire, *(b)* the City of Portsmouth and *(c)* Portsmouth, South constituency. [313075]

Ian Lucas: As the question stands Companies House is unable to provide the answer. However, if postal codes are provided one-off reports can be prepared from their records. If the hon. Gentleman would therefore like to provide this information to the chief executive's office the information will be provided to him directly. The contact details are as follows:

Gareth Jones
Chief Executive and Registrar of Companies
Companies House
Crown Way
Cardiff CF14 3UZ
e-mail: registrar@companieshouse.gov.uk

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the terms of reference are of the review of the Science and Technology Facilities Council announced by the Minister of State for Science and Innovation on 16 December 2009. [311824]

Mr. Lammy: The Review will consider:

how better to manage overseas programme costs;

the improved management of the exchange rate risk;

the current structure of the STFC grant portfolio;

planning the use of facilities managed by STFC but available to researchers across several Research Councils.

The Review, undertaken with the close involvement of STFC, will engage key stakeholders from the STFC scientific community, the other Research Councils and their scientific communities, the relevant learned societies and the Treasury. The Review will also examine arrangements overseas for the funding and operation of large scientific facilities and for the equivalent of STFC research grants.

Students: Finance

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons full assessment of loan and grant applications made in the 2009-10 academic year have been delayed. [311296]

Mr. Lammy: I refer you to my written ministerial statement to the House on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 11WS. The report and statement can be found at the following URL:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/hopkin

TREASURY

Bradford and Bingley

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* size and *(b)* regional distribution is of the buy to let portfolio of the residual portion of Bradford and Bingley owned by UK Financial Investments. [313252]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 845W.

Child Care Vouchers

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the Exchequer of *(a)* withdrawing the tax exemption for employer supported childcare, *(b)* the extension of the free childcare entitlement for two-year olds and *(c)* claims for the childcare element of working tax credit in the next 12 months; [301760]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of employers which will close their childcare vouchers scheme as a result of the removal of the tax exemption for employer-supported childcare. [301761]

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of proposals to end tax relief on employer-supported childcare vouchers on the ability of families on average incomes to afford childcare. [302649]

Mr. Timms: On Friday 4 December 2009, the Prime Minister announced Government's policy in relation to Employer Supported Childcare. Tax exemptions on Employer Supported Childcare will not be removed.

For further information I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 846W.

The reforms to tax relief for childcare vouchers will allow the Government to move towards the long-term ambition set out by the Prime Minister to extend the offer of free part time nursery places for all two-year-olds whose parents want them. As set out in Table B4 on page 173 of the 2009 Pre-Budget Report this approach will be revenue neutral.

The information requested is not available, as HMRC do not produce forecasts for the individual elements of Child and Working Tax Credits.

Coinage: Forgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been convicted of an offence of counterfeiting coins in each year since 1997. [312768]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury holds no central figures relating to the number of individuals convicted of counterfeiting coins.

Departmental Buildings

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what square footage of office space his Department and its agencies rent; and in respect of what proportion of such space rental is calculated on an index-linked basis. [313257]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Address	*Area (1,000 m^2)*	*Comment*
Rosebery Court, Norwich	6.6	3,100 m^2 sublet to VOA, Buying Solutions, HMRC and a private tenant
Alexandra House, Leeds	0.6	—
Eastbury House, London	0.3	—
Eastcheap Court, London	1.3	389 m^2 sublet to APA

In addition, the Office for Government Commerce is responsible for the management of 16 properties on the residual estate.

The space rentals for these properties are not subject to calculation on an index-linked basis.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment in cash terms was for senior civil servants in HM Revenue and Customs, in each of the last five years. [308054]

Mr. Timms: The non-consolidated performance related payments made to Senior Civil Servants (SCS) in HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years are provided in the following table:

		£
	Highest	*Average*
2005-06	11,300	4,983
2006-07	40,000	7,890
2007-08	45,000	8,351
2008-09	34,594	8,581

The figures cover all payments made to those in the SCS during the financial year and include those on standard permanent, standard fixed term contracts and non-standard fixed term contracts.

Non-consolidated payments are made for the previous year's performance so any bonuses paid during 2007-08 are for work completed in 2006-07.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of bank deposits insured by the Government under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [313070]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: According to the FSA's most recent figures, at 31 December 2008 the amount of deposits protected by the FSCS was £1,010 billion.

Insolvency: Fees and Charges

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what studies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its (i) agencies and (ii) non-ministerial departments have made of the tax derived from fee income accruing from (A) corporation and (B) limited liability partnerships in respect of insolvency work. [313265]

Mr. Timms: No such studies have been made.

HM Revenue and Customs do not collect data to this level of detail.

Microgeneration: Finance

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the introduction of a feed-in tariff for micro-combined heat and power. [313548]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

National Income

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross domestic product per head of population was in each of the last three years. [311754]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what the gross domestic product per head of population was in each of the last three years. (311754)

The latest available figures show that GDP per head in the most recent three years for which data are available are:

2006: £21,882

2007: £22,942

2008: £23,596

Data for 2009 will be available for the first time on 30 March 2010.

Background note

1. These figures are most recent GDP figures at current market prices published in the ONS statistical bulletin "Quarterly National Accounts" on 22 December 2009 and latest mid-year population estimates published in the ONS publication "Monthly Digest of Statistics".

Revenue and Customs: Powers of Entry

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times HM Revenue and Customs officers holding writs of assistance have exercised rights to effect entry by force without obtaining warrants from magistrates in each of the last five years. [312730]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not keep records of how many times entry is effected by force.

HMRC's records show that in 2008-09 writs of assistance were used a total of 68 times. Force will not have been used in the vast majority of cases.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the running costs were of each HM Revenue and Customs office in Scotland in each of the last five years; [311967]

(2) what the fixed accommodation cash running costs of HM Revenue and Customs office buildings in Scotland were over each of the last five years. [311969]

Mr. Timms: Most of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) offices are occupied under the terms of private finance initiative (PFI) contracts, under which the Department is unable to disclose running cost information for individual offices due to commercial sensitivity considerations.

For those offices not held under a PFI arrangement, running cost information is provided in the following tables—information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Running costs by building—accruals basis including accounting adjustments for accruals and depreciation

			£ millions
Building name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban[1]	0.03	0.02	0.00
Liberator House, Prestwick[1,2]	0.05	0.04	0.04
Longman House, 28 Longman Street, Inverness[3]	0.07	0.07	0.08
Spitfire House, Turnhouse Road, Edinburgh[1]	0.03	0.03	0.03
Saunton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh[3]	1.28	0.83	0.55
Barbara Ritchie House, Almondvale Way, Livingston	1.36	1.37	1.38
Sidlaw House, Dundee Technology Park, Explorer Road, Dundee[2]	1.75	1.79	1.74
Bathgate Contact Centre, Pyramids Business Park, Bathgate[4]	2.93	2.83	2.81
Accounts Office (Aspire), St. Mungo's Road, Cumbernauld	0.19	0.69	0.79

Table 2: Running costs by building—cash basis excluding accounting adjustment for accruals and depreciation

			£ millions
Building name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban[1]	0.03	0.02	0.00
Liberator House, Prestwick[1,2]	0.05	0.04	0.04
Longman House, 28 Longman Street, Inverness[3]	0.07	0.04	0.06
Spitfire House, Turnhouse Road, Edinburgh[1]	0.03	0.03	0.03
Saunton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh[3]	1.27	0.82	0.54
Barbara Ritchie House, Almondvale Way, Livingston	1.36	1.29	1.35
Sidlaw House, Dundee Technology Park, Explorer Road, Dundee[2]	1.98	1.62	1.68
Bathgate Contact Centre, Pyramids Business Park, Bathgate[4]	2.84	2.45	2.68
Accounts Office (Aspire), St. Mungo's Road, Cumbernauld	0.19	0.69	0.78

[1] Building Vacations:
Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban—November 2007
Spitfire House, Turnhouse Road, Edinburgh—September 2008
Liberator House, Prestwick—August 2009
[2] Rates Revaluations 2007-08:
Liberator House, Prestwick
Sidlaw House, Dundee Technology Park, Explorer Road, Dundee
[3] MOTO reduction in 2007-08:
Longman House, 28 Longman Street, Inverness
Saunton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh
[4] Depreciation adjustments 2006-07:
Bathgate Contact Centre, Pyramids Business Park, Bathgate

Smuggling: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount of revenue lost as a result of illegal trading in *(a)* cigarettes, *(b)* spirits, *(c)* diesel, *(d)* petrol and *(e)* counterfeit goods in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [313643]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The total revenue losses as a result of illegal trading in cigarettes and spirits are not estimated separately for Northern Ireland. Figures for the UK were published by HMRC in 'Measuring Tax Gaps - 2009' in November 2009. The two most recent years covered were 2006-07 and 2007-08. This publication is available in the House of Commons Library.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the size of the illicit market for *(a)* cigarettes, *(b)* spirits, *(c)* diesel and *(d)* petrol in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [313646]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The size of the illicit markets for cigarettes and spirits is not estimated separately for Northern Ireland. Figures for the UK were published by HMRC in 'Measuring Tax Gaps—2009' in November 2009. The two most recent years covered were 2006-07 and 2007-08. This publication is available in the House of Commons Library.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the stamp duty holiday; and how many property transactions did not attract stamp duty during the holiday which would have done so outside the holiday period in *(a)* each government office region in England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [311705]

Mr. Timms: The estimated cost of the stamp duty land tax holiday in 2008-09 and 2009-10 up to 3 September 2009, the original date for the end of the holiday, was published in the 2008 pre-Budget report, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_annexb_262.pdf

A revised estimate for the cost of the stamp duty land tax holiday in 2009-10, to 3 September 2009, was published in table A2 of Budget 2009 available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chaptera_307.pdf

The cost of extending the holiday to 31 December 2009 was also published in table A1 of Budget 2009 available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chaptera_307.pdf

Estimated numbers of transactions falling in the price range between £125,000 and £175,000 which would have attracted stamp duty land tax without the holiday relief, in the period between 3 September 2008 and the end of December 2009, are given in the following table:

Number of transactions in each region sold for between £125,000 and £175,000 in the period from September 2008 to December 2009 inclusive.

Region	*Number*
North West	20,600
North East	6,900
Yorkshire and The Humber	18,200
East of England	31,800
South East	42,400
South West	32,900
London	15,600
East Midlands	20,000
West Midlands	18,700
Scotland	20,700
Wales	8,600
Northern Ireland	4,700
Unallocated to region	8,900

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 27 January 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bars

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the rules are governing *(a)* the use by and *(b)* the admission of guests of (i) hon. Members, (ii) hon. Members' staff and (iii) House of Commons staff in respect of each bar on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate. [312634]

Nick Harvey: Bars on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate currently available to staff of the House (all grades) and Members' staff are:

Bellamy's Bar (Mon-Thurs 12.00-23.00 or rise of House, whichever is the earlier, but not before 22.00) with up to two guests.

Moncrieff s CafeBar (Mon-Tue 09.00 (bar 12.00)-20.00; Weds-Thurs 09.00 (bar 12.00)-22.00 or rise of House, whichever is the later; Fri 09.00 (bar 12.00)-16.00) with up to three guests.

Additionally, senior staff of the House of Commons may use the following bar facilities:

Strangers' Bar (Mon-Weds 12.00-23.00 or rise of House, whichever is the later; Thursday 12.00-22.00; Fri 12.00-15.15 or rise of House, whichever is the later). Staff grade A2 and above may take in up to three guests; Staff Grade B may not take in guests.

June-July only: Terrace Pavilion Bar (open 13.00-23.00 Mon-Weds). Access as for Strangers' Bar.

Pugin Room (Bar service open Mon-Tue 11.00-15.00 and 17.30-midnight or 15 minutes after the rise of House, whichever is the earlier; Weds 11.00-15.00 and 17.30-23.00; Thurs 11.00-15.00 and 17.30-22.00; closed Fridays). Open to staff grade A2 and above with up to three guests.

Members and up to three guests have access to all the bar facilities listed above. Also, the Members' Smoking Room is provided for the exclusive use of Members of Parliament (Mon-Tue 14.00-17.00 and 18.00-midnight; Weds 14.00-17.00 and 18.00-23.00; Thurs 13.00-17.00 and 18.00-19.00; closed Fridays).

The following bars are provided elsewhere on the parliamentary estate for all parliamentary pass holders, including Members, their staff and all staff of the House of Commons:

Sports and Social Club bar 12.00-23.00 Monday to Friday (sitting weeks) and at reduced time, depending on the level of trade, during recess.

Lords Bar (Mon-Thurs 10.30-21.00; Fri 10.30-19.30) with up to two guests.

Department of Resources

Mr. Laws: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on running costs for the Department of Resources and its predecessors in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09; what estimate has been made of such costs in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [312213]

Nick Harvey: The direct running costs of the Department of Resources and its predecessor the Department of Finance and Administration have been:

		£000
	Actual	*Forecast*
2005-06	7,596	—
2006-07	6,860	—
2007-08	7,939	—
2008-09	8,753	—
2009-10	8,753	9,922

These figures include staff and directly related accommodation costs, but not other expenditure managed on behalf of the House as a whole. They also exclude ICT infrastructure costs which are managed jointly by the parliamentary ICT for both Houses.

Fluctuations in expenditure represent organisational and other work changes that have arisen during the period. For example, the departmental ICT team was amalgamated into PICT on 1 January 2006, the Internal Audit team transferred to the Office of the Chief Executive on 1 January 2008, and there have been additional resources consumed recently because of FOI, the Legg Review and other Member-related work.

Members: Allowances

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what remunerated positions Sir Thomas Legg declared prior to his appointment to review payments from the additional cost allowance; and whether Sir Thomas was required to declare the amount of remuneration he receives from such positions. [313437]

Nick Harvey: Sir Thomas Legg has declared the following positions: non-executive director of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, consultant to Clifford Chance, and Commissioner of the Audit Commission. Sir Thomas was not required to inform the House Administration of the amount of remuneration from these positions.

JUSTICE

Back Office: Central Government

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the reasons for the cost of the finance function of his Department's core headquarters referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if he will make a statement. [312681]

Mr. Wills: The cost of the finance function for the Ministry of Justice's headquarters is made up of:

the costs of finance teams that provide support to a number of the MOJ's Directorates, including the corporate centre which provides support and challenge to the entire Department;

the costs for transaction processing for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs parts of the Department (including HM Courts Service and the Tribunal Service) that are funded and managed through a central contract.

The cost differences reflected in the publication 'Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government' may have a number of causes including, as the report notes: "different bodies in central Government have very different business models to deliver their different services". I believe that, given the MOJ's business model, this level of headquarters expenditure is reasonable in supporting a wider business area and providing support and challenge to help the board and Ministers to achieve outcomes efficiently.

The MOJ supports the work on benchmarking, and is working with other Government Departments to help us to better understand the variations in costs these data illustrate and to drive further efficiencies across the MOJ through the shared services programme started in July 2009. The MOJ also has plans, annexed to 'Putting the Frontline First', to improve the efficiency of both its finance and human resources functions across its headquarters, agencies and non-departmental public bodies. These include moving all human resources and finance transaction processing into a single shared service.

Convictions: Knives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of an offence of carrying a knife in each of the last five years. [312767]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to carrying a knife, England and Wales 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice do not collect charging data: proceeded against information has been provided in lieu.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to knife possession[1], England and Wales 2003-07[2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2003	6,928	5,396
2004	7,352	5,890
2005	7,319	6,005
2006	7,699	6,369
2007	7,404	6,169

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Driving Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine given to a person convicted of driving without insurance was in each justice administrative area in each year since 1997. [312817]

Claire Ward: The number of average fines imposed at all courts in England and Wales for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by police force area, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Average fine imposed at all courts for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1]

	Average amount of fines (£)										
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	259	204	164	182	130	133	138	154	154	155	155
Bedfordshire	314	293	274	226	164	169	137	143	156	183	210
Cambridgeshire	220	209	215	182	119	118	131	152	171	182	186
Cheshire	274	248	237	211	149	153	167	179	190	195	224
City of London	332	314	346	374	369	368	334	230	198	214	245
Cleveland	162	167	170	179	167	173	171	189	202	210	216
Cumbria	150	171	220	265	151	151	159	169	171	186	193
Derbyshire	270	279	283	296	337	355	367	367	376	372	379
Devon and Cornwall	184	185	178	179	133	132	127	134	145	150	161
Dorset	295	302	301	261	121	114	125	158	171	176	186
Durham	181	177	194	159	118	122	121	116	123	132	138
Essex	174	149	140	123	101	104	112	164	182	202	217
Gloucestershire	154	201	247	240	91	86	133	148	143	140	156
Greater Manchester	245	226	236	232	152	151	157	167	176	181	186
Hampshire	132	135	138	136	119	122	124	131	138	141	150
Hertfordshire	193	164	173	205	155	166	181	198	208	216	216
Humberside	159	148	143	137	122	132	137	150	180	194	200
Kent	245	241	226	271	209	192	190	197	204	221	223

Average fine imposed at all courts for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1]

	Average amount of fines (£)										
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Lancashire	332	296	237	219	111	113	141	156	169	183	191
Leicestershire	318	318	276	254	134	135	138	150	145	152	163
Lincolnshire	159	197	209	188	133	134	148	179	185	196	202
Merseyside	199	203	200	206	163	167	148	137	141	147	156
Metropolitan Police	202	184	184	169	139	140	143	147	165	179	195
Norfolk	242	256	265	210	99	108	139	152	152	165	167
North Yorkshire	249	236	230	211	130	137	141	160	177	185	193
Northamptonshire	243	286	310	280	280	334	245	183	156	172	175
Northumbria	136	146	148	144	130	135	135	137	142	148	153
Nottinghamshire	164	165	153	150	152	156	152	188	138	147	159
South Yorkshire	194	206	191	169	128	137	146	126	147	143	157
Staffordshire	251	228	234	198	152	163	166	186	230	256	257
Suffolk	192	192	192	185	128	138	133	136	156	162	168
Surrey	243	242	215	218	201	215	221	198	195	217	236
Sussex	218	186	181	167	118	117	138	162	170	169	185
Thames Valley	292	256	268	250	134	135	158	198	206	217	226
Warwickshire	228	175	178	188	157	168	164	210	200	230	229
West Mercia	268	282	282	263	176	180	165	193	208	218	223
West Midlands	207	190	189	201	169	192	200	206	207	211	209
West Yorkshire	255	242	242	208	120	123	134	144	144	146	147
Wiltshire	152	183	186	204	283	286	280	200	208	228	217
Dyfed Powys	183	182	175	169	155	166	172	187	184	191	206
Gwent	253	225	225	208	148	154	170	157	171	172	174
North Wales	209	226	272	230	143	150	149	154	163	173	175
South Wales	190	179	182	188	159	173	158	154	149	158	167
England and Wales	224	214	212	203	150	155	160	169	177	185	194

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Family Courts: Mass Media

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when an assessment will be made of the effectiveness of the changes introduced in April 2009 to arrangements for the media to attend family court hearings. [312933]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice published a study into the impact of the April 2009 rule changes on 21 January 2010. The study can be found on the Ministry of Justice website and copies have been laid in the House of Commons Library.

Legal Advice and Assistance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 546W, on legal advice and assistance, whether seasonal fluctuations in workload of new matter start allocations for providers of the Advice and Assistance Scheme (Legal Help) were taken into account when deciding upon the period 9 April to August 2009 to assess the annual run-rate. [312922]

Bridget Prentice: Seasonal fluctuations were not taken into account when calculating the annual run-rate of firms, which predict the number of matter starts that might potentially be required by each provider to year end. However, any provider who had their allocation of matter starts reduced following the review can request a review by the Legal Services Commission and present evidence in support of a request to reinstate matter starts, including data regarding seasonal fluctuations. Seasonal fluctuations vary greatly from firm to firm and among categories of law and therefore it is not possible to apply a standard formula to take these into account.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals to set up separate operational arms in the National Offender Management Service. [312662]

Maria Eagle: As part of the restructure of the Ministry of Justice in 2008, a single NOMS delivery organisation has been created to join together and streamline headquarters, and deliver prison and probation services more effectively. This delivery arm is an executive agency. The expectations on prisons and probation are unchanged: to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

National Offender Management Service: Probation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to increase the number of staff at the National Offender Management Service HQ who have a background in probation. [312663]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) fully recognises the benefits of using the specialist skills of probation staff in appropriate posts. Where there is a business need for a particular post to be filled by someone with a probation service employment background, NOMS headquarters groups may second or advertise externally, in line with NOMS and civil service recruitment policy.

NOMS has recently obtained special permission from the Office of the Civil Service Commissioners for secondments from probation services to last for up to three years, rather than the two years normally allowed by the Commissioners' Recruitment Principles. Certain senior posts in the regional teams within NOMS headquarters are now reserved for probation service personnel on secondment. In addition, NOMS is developing a facility for vacant posts, where appropriate, to be simultaneously advertised internally to Ministry of Justice employees, and as secondment opportunities to probation service employees.

National Offender Management Service: Recruitment

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether probation staff *(a)* are permitted to apply for and *(b)* may be appointed to vacancies in the National Offender Management Service. [313008]

Maria Eagle: Probation service employees may apply for posts in the National Offender Management Service Agency that are advertised externally. They may also apply for internally advertised posts on secondment. Where appropriate, posts may also be reserved solely for secondment of personnel from probation areas or trusts.

Prison Accommodation

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many hospital beds in each prison are being used to ease overcrowding elsewhere in the prison; [313202]

(2) how many prisons used hospital beds to ease overcrowding elsewhere in the prison in 2009. [313203]

Maria Eagle: Places in in-patient health care centres may be added to the certified normal accommodation and/or operational capacity of a prison when routinely used to accommodate patients but not simply to provide additional accommodation to manage population pressures.

Prisoner Escapes

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many escape list prisoners there are in each category of prison accommodation. [313201]

Maria Eagle: This information is not held centrally. To collate this information would involve contacting every closed establishment in order to identify how many prisoners are currently on each local escape list. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

All closed prisons are required to have in place a system to identify and manage prisoners who are placed on the escape list. A prisoner may be placed on the escape list if they pose a current and significant threat of escaping that cannot be addressed through normal security arrangements.

Prisoners Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners were released before their agreed release date in the latest year for which figures are available; [312847]

(2) how many offences were committed by people released from prison in error in the latest period for which figures are available; [312877]

(3) how many people released from prison in error were returned to prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [312878]

Maria Eagle: As at 21 January 2010, 54 prisoners were recorded as released in error when an authority to retain them in custody was in place. This figure covers the period between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009.

Most prisoners released in error are returned quickly to custody. Of those released in error during 2009 seven remain unaccounted for.

Figures relating to offences committed by those at large following a release in error are not available centrally. Releases in error are reported to the police who are responsible for apprehending prisoners. Information on further offences committed could only be collated by contacting each prison and police force across England and Wales which would incur disproportionate cost.

The number of releases in error is small, accounting for less than 0.05 per cent. of discharges from prison. All incidents are subject to investigation. There is no indication from the available information of any significant level of offending by prisoners who should have been in custody at the time.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

The number of releases in error reported for 2009 may change, should further incidents be reported.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences were committed by prisoners released for Christmas 2009. [312903]

Maria Eagle: No offences were recorded against any offender released on temporary licence (ROTL) over the Christmas period. Every prisoner who submits a request for ROTL is seen by a board which consists of prison and probation staff. A stringent risk assessment is carried out before any decision is made to grant the application. Throughout the whole process public protection is paramount.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

These figures may change should any further offences relating to this period be identified and reported to National Offender Management Service.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female foreign national prisoners there are, broken down by (i) offence category and (ii) length of sentence. [313199]

Maria Eagle: The most recent data available relate to June 2009. The following tables give the numbers of *(a)* male and *(b)* female foreign national prisoners (FNPs) showing both (i) offence category and (ii) length of sentence.

Offence category	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Violence against the person	1,588	53	1,640
Sexual offences	881	11	892
Robbery	605	6	611
Burglary	292	8	300
Theft and handling	265	56	322
Fraud and forgery	779	149	928
Drug offences	1,841	297	2,138
Motoring offences	131	0	131
Other offences	479	35	515
Offence not recorded	23	2	25
Total	6,884	618	7,502

Sentence length	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Less than or equal to six months	588	86	674
Greater than six and less than 12 months	280	36	316
12 months less to than four years	2,015	172	2,188
Four years to less than life	2,973	301	3,273
Indeterminate (including life)	1,028	24	1,052
Total	6,884	618	7,502

In addition to the 7,502 sentenced prisoners, a further 3,848 were either untried, convicted unsentenced, a fine defaulter or non-criminals, giving a total of 11,350.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Gender Identity Disorder

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 789-90W, on gender identity disorder: prisoners, from whom the draft guidance on the treatment of prisoners with gender dysphoria is available for *(a)* prisons and *(b)* prisoners. [312923]

Maria Eagle: As was indicated in the previous answer given to the House on 11 January 2010, *Official Report* column 789-90W, the responsibility for the production of the draft guidance on the treatment, care and management of transsexual prisoners is split between officials in the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice but in the majority of instances where prison staff have requested advice these have been directed to the latter and more specifically officials in Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group in the National Offender Management Service. As the document is still in draft form it is not readily available for wider distribution beyond policy officials and prison staff but where necessary the advice and information contained within is made available to prisoner(s) who require it.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment his Department has made of the merits of *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* abstinence-based drug treatment programmes for prisoners. [312905]

Maria Eagle: Contracts are in place with two groups of researchers for evaluation of different aspects of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS). This will include the impact of methadone maintenance in particular. The contracts were let in 2008 and each group of researchers will submit a final report by April 2012.

All accredited drug treatment programmes available in prisons aim ultimately for abstinence and are based on good practice found in the community. Offenders in custody are subject to drug testing and usually receive a range of interventions and support aimed at reducing reoffending. It is practically difficult to pinpoint the precise effect of any one of these interventions on overall drug misuse or reoffending. Evaluations to date specifically of prison drug treatment programmes run in England and Wales are limited and have not always met the highest methodological standards. However, they suggest that accredited programmes can reduce reoffending (Ramsay, M. (ed) (2003), Prisoners' Drug Use and Treatment: Seven Research Studies. Home Office Research Study 267. London: Home Office). International evidence supports these findings.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were participating in *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* abstinence-based drug treatment programmes on the latest date for which figures are available. [312906]

Maria Eagle: In 2008-09, 64,767 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 45,135 received detoxification and 19,632 received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency.

The table shows the number of commencements on accredited drug treatment programmes for the last period for which data are available. Data are not collected centrally on the number of individual prisoners enrolled on such programmes at any one time.

Although all accredited drug treatment programmes run in prisons aim ultimately for abstinence, the short duration programme (SDP) has been designed to be appropriate for prisoners undergoing clinical maintenance as well as those that remain abstinent.

Intervention type (2008-09)	*Intervention starts (rounded to nearest 10)*
12-Step Programme	850
Therapeutic Communities	260
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) programmes[1]	9,650

Intervention type (2008-09)	*Intervention starts (rounded to nearest 10)*
Of which:	
Short Duration Programme	(5,550)
Total	10,760

[1] Prisons have in place a range of CBT accredited drug programmes, including: PASRO (Prisoner Addressing Substance Related Offending), STOP (Substance Treatment and Offending Programme), FOCUS (high security prisons only) and the Short Duration Programme.

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many women prisoners have given birth since April 2009; [313206]

(2) how many women became pregnant while serving a prison sentence in the last year for which data are available. [313207]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of women who have given birth in prison or became pregnant while serving a prison sentence is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as in order to provide this information staff would need to look at each individual's record.

In addition, it would not be possible to guarantee the accuracy of the data about when women become pregnant as this would be reliant on information being provided by the prisoners themselves.

Probation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to increase the level of contact time between probation staff and offenders. [312664]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is taking a number of actions to increase the amount of contact time between probation staff and offenders. These include:

allocating resources to the assessment and management of offenders according to the level of risk;

as part of the Probation Trusts Programme all areas (including locally initiated mergers) have identified efficiencies through for example the reduction in management overheads, and development, of shared services, to the benefit of front line staffing levels;

a national programme of specifying probation work, and benchmarking performance, to support the effective deployment of front line staff;

identifying opportunities for reducing bureaucracy and other demands currently placed on front-line staff; and

expanding the use of video conferencing to reduce the time probation staff spend travelling to interview prisoners.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to respond to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report entitled "Cold Comfort: the Administration of the 2005 Single Payment Scheme by the Rural Payments Agency". [311216]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 January 2010]*: The Department's views were relayed to the Parliamentary Ombudsman at various stages during the course of her investigations and are referred to in the report itself. A formal response will be made to any subsequent report the Public Administration Select Committee decides to produce on the issue.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how cross-compliance regulations in respect of single payments and the Integrated Administration and Control System scheme apply to turbines and related infrastructure built on farmland; and if he will make a statement. [312565]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Any area of farm land occupied by a wind turbine, electricity pylon or other item of non-agricultural infrastructure would not form part of the agricultural area eligible to support claims under the single payment scheme. As such the standards of cross-compliance would not apply to these features.

Chemicals: Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to require the chemical industry to minimise the number of animals used in testing covered by the provisions of the EU Regulation on the registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals. [312689]

Dan Norris: The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation contains strong provisions to minimise the amount of animal testing by EU-based companies when compiling their substance registration dossiers. These require that animal tests be the last resort, with the use of non-animal test methods instead wherever possible, and prohibit the repetition and duplication of animal tests. REACH also requires that when preparing registration dossiers, data derived from animal tests must be shared between all members of a Substance Information Exchange Forum (SIEF) in order to achieve this. Where further tests are necessary to complete registrations for substances on the market in quantities of 10 tonnes or more per year, then proposals must be submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for approval before any such tests are undertaken, so pre-emptive testing would be illegal. Part of this approval process involves a 45-day public consultation on the test proposals, so that third parties have the opportunity to provide information on the substance that would render the proposed animal tests unnecessary.

In order to help companies address the issue of using animal tests when preparing registration dossiers, a short guidance note has been published on the DEFRA website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/chemicals/reach/index.htm

which draws attention to these legal requirements, and suggests a number of possible non-animal alternative test methods including chemical grouping and read-across approaches, use of (Quantitative) Structural Activity Relationships (QSARs), and in vitro tests. Information can also be provided by way of a weight of evidence assessment, and certain tests specified in REACH may also be waived where it can be shown that exposure of humans or the environment to a substance is insignificant or absent.

It is important that companies remember that they should not be undertaking animal testing for REACH registration before their test proposals are approved by ECHA as being necessary. Companies should actively look for alternatives to animal testing wherever possible, and refer to the REACH Test Methods Regulation for what is available for use. Other internationally-valid non-animal test methods that do not appear in the Test Methods Regulation may also be used. However, where animal tests are the last resort, then companies should use the most refined method possible to reduce the numbers of animals involved.

ECHA has published detailed guidance on data-sharing and information requirements for the REACH registration process on its website, and the UK REACH Competent Authority (provided by the Health and Safety Executive) is also shortly to publish a guidance leaflet for industry on animal testing and use of alternatives on its website. This will explain the REACH testing obligations, help with identifying the most appropriate test method, with information on the various available non-animal test methods.

Departmental Assets

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what departmental assets are planned to be sold in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; what the (i) description and (ii) book value is of each such asset; what the expected revenue is from each such sale; and by what date each asset is expected to have been sold. [310243]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 676W.

The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion from asset and property sales over the period by 2013-14. On 7 December the Government published the "Operational Efficiency Programme: Asset Portfolio", setting out the next steps for the delivery of the £16 billion by 2013-14.

DEFRA has approximately £6.9 million (book value £10.2 million) of surplus properties for disposal in 2009-10, arising from the sale of land, residential and office premises. Anticipated disposals from land and laboratory premises are expected to realise £9 million in 2010-11 (book value £8 million).

Not all future asset disposals have been finalised, and for reasons of commercial sensitivity it is not possible to identify publicly each asset to be disposed of, or to set out deadlines for sales as this can have a negative impact on values.

DEFRA's latest published asset management strategy is available on its website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/how/busplan/spending-review/docs/asset-management-strategy.pdf

The strategy is currently being updated following the creation of the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the transfer of certain functions from DEFRA to DECC, and it is planned that the new version of the strategy will be published in the spring.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in 2010. [313044]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has a long-term commitment to reduce its carbon emissions. Performance in 2008-09 shows that DEFRA's carbon emissions from offices has reduced by 18 per cent. on the 1999-2000 baseline, exceeding the 2010 Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) target by 6 per cent. Since 2006-07 the Department has delivered a reduction of 4 per cent. carbon emissions (year on year) from its estate through its Carbon Reduction Programme.

DEFRA's achievements have been recognised through the award of the Carbon Trust Standard in May 2008, where the Department was one of the first 12 pathfinder organisations to receive the award. This built upon the earlier success of the Department achieving Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme (EEAS) status in July 2007. Both of these awards clearly demonstrate that DEFRA has an ongoing commitment to long-term, year on year carbon emissions reductions.

The Department is expecting to continue to deliver significant year on year savings, anticipated at as much as 6 per cent. year on year.

A strategic long-term investment plan allows the delivery of projects which provide long-term benefits through reducing energy demand and minimising the need to reinvest in the short to medium term. To disrupt these long-term plans in order to achieve 10:10 would impact negatively on DEFRA's ability to achieve its long-term goals and would not deliver value for money. However, the combination of DEFRA's long-term plans, a minimum 6 per cent. reduction in 2010 and a short-term call to action all constitute a credible contribution to tackling climate change.

In light of the above, achieving a 10 per cent. saving across the DEFRA Estate in a single year would require my Department to divert significant funds from its long-term delivery plan; therefore The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its Executive Agencies have not signed up to the 10:10 campaign.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307566]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's chief information officer is employed as a senior civil servant (SCS-Contractor) on a fixed term contract basis. The size of the budget the CIO is responsible for is £76 million for 2009-10.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing on departmental networked computers. [310054]

Dan Norris: The Department has blocked access to:

www.facebook.com

There are also a number of other websites that the Department blocks for reasons of IT security. The security policies informing these IT security decisions are in line with HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF)

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/spf.aspx

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for each such activity in 2009-10. [310212]

Dan Norris: DEFRA website costs are as follows:

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Strategy and planning	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Design and build	0	0	59,447	56,979
Hosting and infrastructure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Content provision	340,000	340,000	340,000	340,000
Testing and evaluation	0	0	50,780	14,170

The costs shown for "Content Provision" are essentially the staff cost for the central team with responsibility for updating and maintaining DEFRA's websites. An element of their work is "Strategy and Planning", but the costs of such work cannot be easily separated.

This central team is also responsible for the DEFRA intranet, and the staff costs for the external DEFRA website alone cannot be readily disaggregated.

The costs shown in 2008-09 and 2009-10 under "Design and Build" and "Testing and Evaluation" are the costs for the project to redevelop the DEFRA website. The website was relaunched in September 2009, the first major website redesign since DEFRA came into being in 2001. The total cost of this work, spread over two years, was £181,378.

"Hosting and Infrastructure" of the DEFRA website—as well as a range of IT applications—are provided as part of DEFRA's overall IT service provision, and the costs of this aspect of website maintenance cannot be readily disaggregated.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307099]

Dan Norris: An element of DEFRA's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The following table details the number and the total amount of non-consolidated variable pay awards awarded under DEFRA's standard pay and performance management process for the three most recent performance years for which the relevant payments have been published in the Department's accounts.

For DEFRA, the data cover staff at grade 6 and below in core-DEFRA and those Executive agencies covered by the core-Department's terms and conditions i.e. Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Marine and Fisheries Agency. They also include senior civil servants in core-DEFRA and its Executive agencies (Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Rural Payments Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and the Central Science Laboratory—which is now part of the Food and Environment Research Agency, which was created on 1 April 2009.

For those Executive agencies that operate delegated pay arrangements (Rural Payments Agency (RPA), Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), which is now part of the Food and Environment Research Agency, which was created on 1 April 2009, the data cover staff at grade 6 and below only.

Department	*Number of staff who received a non-consolidated performance payment*	*Total amount of payments (£)*	*Wages and salaries for the year (£)*	*Non-consolidated performance payments as a percentage of wages and salaries*
Performance year 2005-06				
DEFRA	2,395	3,171,792	294,379,000	1.1
VLA	251	39,120	39,485,000	0.1
RPA	505	243,072	88,093,000	0.3
CEFAS	511	566,766	16,881,000	3.3
CSL	260	176,901	21,703,000	0.8
Performance year 2006-07				
DEFRA	1,959	3,235,664	252,501,000	1.3
VLA	212	45,327	40,846,000	0.1
RPA	813	425,417	99,667,000	0.4
CEFAS	506	610,125	19,203,000	3.2
CSL	328	233,049	22,127,000	1.1

Department	*Number of staff who received a non-consolidated performance payment*	*Total amount of payments (£)*	*Wages and salaries for the year (£)*	*Non-consolidated performance payments as a percentage of wages and salaries*
Performance year 2007-08				
DEFRA	1,914	3,072,554	211,900,000	1.5
VLA	226	47,409	40,028,000	0.1
RPA	1,126	507,572	99,405,000	0.5
CEFAS	496	773,747	19,160,000	3.9
CSL	332	264,280	22,657,000	1.2

CEFAS has relatively higher non-consolidated pay when compared as a percentage against the DEFRA network, because they have specifically worked to structure a total rewards package with a greater non consolidated pay element, that is directly performance based and must be re-earned each year. This places a greater link between performance and reward and while their percentage of non consolidated pay is larger than others this is more than offset by their consolidated pay (i.e. salaries) which is low relative to the DEFRA network and Whitehall.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [310754]

Dan Norris: Training is provided to Ministers on a range of issues including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the ministerial code.

Fly Tipping: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of incidents of fly-tipping in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each of the last five years. [313512]

Dan Norris: The number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded on the Flycapture database by *(a)* Ashford borough council and *(b)* all local authorities in Kent in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Ashford borough council	*Kent local authorities (including Ashford)*
2004-05	950	31,298
2005-06	1,177	38,878
2006-07	1,450	38,333
2007-08	1,177	27,702
2008-09	1,123	21.038

The number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded as having been dealt with by local authorities on the Flycapture database is published annually on the DEFRA website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Incidents of fly-tipping cleared from private land by the landowner are not recorded.

Garages and Petrol Stations: Contamination

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what duties there are on the owner of a rental petrol forecourt site to decontaminate the site once its use as a petrol station has ceased; and if he will make a statement. [312671]

Dan Norris: There are various measures which create duties to address contamination, depending on the circumstances of the case. Contaminated land legislation (Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) makes persons liable for the cost of remediating a site if they caused or knowingly permitted it to become contaminated land. This allows direct action to be taken by regulators, and it creates an incentive for operators to avoid causing contamination in the first place, and to clean it up voluntarily if it occurs. For contamination caused after 1 March 2009, the Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009 would also be applicable in similar circumstances and to achieve similar objectives to Part 2A of the 1990 Act.

Legislation also directly applies to prevent contamination during the operation of a petrol station. Under the Groundwater Regulations 2009 there is a code of practice to prevent hazardous substances from reaching groundwater from underground tanks, such as those at petrol stations. The Environment Agency can serve a notice on the operator if it is likely that the code of practice is not being complied with. The Agency also has powers under the Anti-pollution Works Notices Regulations 1999 to serve notices where there is a threat of pollution to controlled waters or to require clean up where pollution of controlled waters has occurred.

Where a petrol forecourt is operated under a rental agreement, there may be further duties on the operator to deal with contamination as an indirect result of legislation.

Rural Payments Agency: Pay

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the monetary value of bonuses awarded to officials of the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years. [310620]

Dan Norris: The payments made for non-consolidated performance payments awarded to employees at the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in the last five years is shown in the following table:

	Actual payment totals (£)	*Percentage of the RPA paybill*
2004-05	281,000	0.40
2005-06	252,000	0.37
2006-07	302,000	0.43
2007-08	452,000	0.52
2008-09	559,000	0.48

RPA performance payments are paid to RPA staff working on all aspects of the agency's work which includes managing and making payments for some 60 schemes, making payments on a further 30 schemes delivered by others, carrying out inspections and operating the British Cattle Movement Service under two reward schemes:

(a) Staff who have achieved the required performance assessment following the end of year individual performance review. This arrangement is negotiated each year with the trade union side; and

(b) A special recognition scheme was introduced in 2007 and exists to recognise instances of people making additional or outstanding contributions to RPA's work, giving an employee up to £500 for an outstanding performance.

These figures include non-consolidated performance payments paid to senior civil servants (SCS). The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent senior salaries review body.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Environment Agency receives payment from money submitted as payment with wind farm planning applications to cover the cost of its contribution to the planning process; and if he will make a statement. [312564]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency does not receive any payment from money submitted as payment for wind farm planning applications, or from any other planning applications. The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee in the planning process, and this activity is funded by its grant funding from central Government.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what security checks will apply in respect of passengers who refuse to be scanned by an airport full body scanner. [313213]

Paul Clark: The Government are not proposing to offer an alternative method of search for passengers refusing to use a body scanner.

Passengers who are selected for scanning, but decline to use the scanner, will not be permitted to fly.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether full body scanners will be used to scan children at airports. [313214]

Paul Clark: We are confident that the introduction of these scanners is a proportionate and necessary next step in enhancing security of passengers, and that their use is consistent with the Protection of Children Act 1978. We will therefore be expecting children to use the scanners.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the implications for human rights of the use of full body scanners at airports; and if he will make a statement. [313215]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working with the industry and other Government Departments to produce a code of practice for the operation of body scanners. This will include an assessment of the legal, health and privacy issues surrounding their deployment.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for how long images obtained by airport full body scanners will be stored. [313216]

Paul Clark: The equipment being deployed in airports does not have the capacity to save an image in any form. Images are viewed remotely from the machine, and are deleted immediately after analysis. Images cannot be recovered at a later date from the machines.

Car Sharing: Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what modelling the Government has done on *(a)* changes in car sharing rates and *(b)* the effect such changes have on road congestion; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the outcomes of such modelling. [313001]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has not modelled changes in car sharing rates. However, research was published by DFT in 2005 "Smarter Choice—Changing the way we travel" (Cairns S, Stoman L, Newson C, Anable J, Kirkbride A and Goodwin P; 2004). This research analysed the potential impact of car sharing on commuting vehicle trips and vehicle mileage. The report is available at:

http://dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/smarterchoices/ctwwt/

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many industrial tribunals relating to his Department there have been in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was of such tribunals in each year. [310750]

Chris Mole: The total number of employment tribunal cases recorded in each of the last five years and the costs are broken down in the following table and also include figures to date for 2009-10:

Financial year	*Number*	*Cost (£)*
2009-10	21	86,917.61
2008-09	37	312,679.34
2007-08	29	156,513.65
2006-07	8	7,602.21
2005-06	6	20,196.71
2004-05	14	15,000.00
Total	115	598,909.52

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is unable to provide the cost element to this question as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it will incur disproportionate costs. For the same reason the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency is unable to provide costs for 2004-05.

First Capital Connect: Industrial Disputes

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date the Secretary of State was first notified of the recent industrial action by drivers on the First Capital Connect Thameslink route. [312504]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State was first notified of the recent concerted action by drivers on the First Capital Connect Thameslink route on 26 October 2009.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the recent industrial action by drivers on the First Capital Connect Thameslink route constitutes a force majeure event under the terms of the franchise agreement with First Capital Connect. [312505]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State was satisfied that in this instance the concerted action that was taken by the drivers on the First Capital Connect Thameslink route was industrial action for the purposes of schedule 10.4 of the franchise agreement, and therefore a force majeure event.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the management of First Capital Connect to discuss industrial action by drivers on the First Capital Connect Thameslink route in the last three months. [312506]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State met with the managing director of First Capital Connect on 12 November 2009 to discuss the industrial action. Officials in the Department for Transport have also met with First Capital Connect on numerous occasions, within this period.

The Secretary of State has also spoken with the chief executive of First Group about First Capital Connect's performance.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what modelling the Government has done on the economic and environmental effects of a third runway at Heathrow; and if he will place a copy in the Library of the outcomes of such modelling. [313003]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport published its latest assessment of the economic and environmental effects of a third runway at Heathrow in "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport—Impact Assessment" in January 2009. The publication coincided with the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement of his policy decisions on the future development of Heathrow airport. Copies of the published documents, and earlier technical reports on the environmental modelling, have all been deposited in the Library.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* cars, *(b)* vans, *(c)* lorries and *(d)* motorcycles of each make were (i) clamped and (ii) crushed in each of the last three years; in what circumstances and under what legislative authority such vehicles are (A) clamped and (B) crushed; and if he will make a statement. [313149]

Paul Clark: We do not keep information on the number of vehicles clamped or crushed by vehicle type. However, the following table provides the total number of vehicles wheel clamped; disposed of by crushing or via auction and immobilised in each of the last three calendar years.

	Unlicensed Vehicles (DVLA)		*Unroadworthy Vehicles (VOSA)*
	Clamped	*Crushed or auctioned*	*Immobilised*
2009	113,288	37,758	[1]3,481
2008	124,428	38,531	n/a
2007	108,385	39,872	n/a

[1] May to December.

The Department for Transport employs the use of wheel clamping and immobilisation of unlicensed and un-roadworthy vehicles. The legislative authority is set out in the Vehicle Excise Duty (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations 1997, as amended and the Road Safety (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal) Regulations 2009.

Immobilisation of Vehicles: South East

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cars have been impounded in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* the Metropolitan Police area of London and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 2005; and at what total cost in each case in each such year. [313277]

Paul Clark: It is not possible to provide the number of cars impounded or information by geographical area. A contract is in place to provide a wheel-clamping service, which may lead to impounding, on vehicles in the United Kingdom. The contract is on a fixed price basis for the entire service. Neither costs of impounding individual vehicles, nor costs of the operation within geographical locations are available.

London and South Eastern Railway: Snow and Ice

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with Southeastern Railway on recent disruptions to its service caused by snow and ice. [312667]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport communicated regularly with Southeastern and Network Rail during the recent service disruption caused by snow and ice. The Department was informed of the services that would be operating, taking into account the availability of infrastructure and trains, and challenged Southeastern to run as full a service as possible. The Department is now collecting information on the service that was offered to understand whether or not any improvements can be made to rail services during future adverse weather.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the estimated average cost is of processing a vehicle excise duty application *(a)* at a post office, *(b)* by post and *(c)* online. [313636]

Paul Clark: The average cost for processing a vehicle excise duty application during 2009-10 is as follows:

(a) Post Office: £1.47

(b) Not available

(c) 95 pence.

Railways: Hunting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken following the incident on 31 December 2009 in which six foxhounds belonging to the Duke of Beaufort's hunt were killed by a high-speed passenger train near Wootton Bassett; and if he will make a statement. [312748]

Chris Mole: The day-to-day running of the railways, and their safety is a matter for rail operators and the Office of Rail Regulation as the independent rail safety regulator.

The incident was included in the daily performance log submitted to the Department by the train operator involved. Aside from this, the Department is not involved in operational incidents of this nature (animals on the line).

Railways: Kent

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of scheduled trains operated by each franchised train operating company serving Kent which *(a)* were cancelled and *(b)* arrived late in each of the last five years. [313428]

Chris Mole: The information requested is held by Network Rail but is also given in the following table. The table gives the information for each of the last five complete financial years, in relation to Southeastern trains which operates franchised rail passenger services in Kent.

Southeastern

	Trains cancelled	*Trains late at destination*
2004-05	7,825	85,078
2005-06	6,341	70,737
2006-07	5,227	60,576
2007-08	5,102	49,592
2008-09	7,326	51,800

Note:

Commuter trains are classified as 'late' if they arrive at destination five or more minutes later than their scheduled arrival time.

Railways: North West

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had on the establishment of a high speed rail link between the North West and London. [312425]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State has now received High Speed Two's report which he is considering. Both the Secretary of State and his ministerial colleagues continue to meet regularly with key stakeholders to discuss a range of transport issues, including high speed rail.

Railways: Standards

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what percentage of scheduled trains operated by each franchised train operating company in England *(a)* were cancelled and *(b)* arrived late in each of the last five years. [313430]

Chris Mole: The information requested is held by Network Rail but is also given in the following tables. The tables give the information for each of the last five complete financial years.

2004-05

Train operating company	*Trains cancelled*	*Trains late at destination*	*Percentage cancelled*	*Percentage late*
c2c	1,307	6,120	1.2	5.6
Chiltern Railways	825	6,430	0.9	6.6
Crosscountry	1,432	27,557	1.6	30.2
East Coast	559	13,119	1.4	32.4
East Midlands Trains	1,857	32,643	1.4	24.4
First Capital Connect	3,982	39,741	1.2	12.4
First Great Western	4,980	80,156	1.1	17.3
First TransPennine Express	1,462	21,002	1.7	23.7
London Midland	5,902	77,913	1.7	22.0
London Overground	2,921	17,353	2.2	13.3
Merseyrail	2,153	9,768	1.1	4.8
National Express East Anglia	5,658	58,764	1.0	10.6
Northern Rail	6,612	117,899	0.8	14.6
South West Trains	6,532	97,076	1.1	16.8
Southeastern	7,825	85,078	1.3	14.5
Southern	8,989	103,020	1.5	16.8
Virgin Trains	1,812	21,976	2.9	35.2

2005-06

Train operating company	*Trains cancelled*	*Trains late at destination*	*Percentage cancelled*	*Percentage late*
c2c	1,343	6,501	1.2	5.9
Chiltern Railways	1,366	6,906	1.4	6.9
Crosscountry	1,432	23,092	1.5	25.0
East Coast	546	9,265	1.3	22.9
East Midlands Trains	1,952	26,983	1.5	20.1
First Capital Connect	5,565	34,758	1.7	10.6
First Great Western	4,609	86,309	1.0	18.2
First TransPennine Express	856	15,926	1.1	19.6

2005-06

Train operating company	*Trains cancelled*	*Trains late at destination*	*Percentage cancelled*	*Percentage late*
London Midland	6,203	61,603	1.6	15.5
London Overground	2,753	10,322	2.1	7.9
Merseyrail	3,038	12,980	1.5	6.3
National Express East Anglia	7,261	70,575	1.3	12.6
Northern Rail	6,116	104,717	0.7	12.8
South West Trains	5,663	54,355	0.9	9.1
Southeastern	6,341	70,737	1.1	12.2
Southern	6,892	68,449	1.1	10.8
Virgin Trains	688	16,959	1.0	24.1

2006-07

Train operating company	*Trains cancelled*	*Trains late at destination*	*Percentage cancelled*	*Percentage late*
c2c	1,152	5,045	1.1	4.6
Chiltern Railways	938	5,440	0.9	5.3
Crosscountry	1,382	21,127	1.4	21.5
East Coast	805	9,728	1.9	23.5
East Midlands Trains	1,970	19,609	1.5	14.5
First Capital Connect	5,166	34,061	1.6	10.3
First Great Western	7,045	80,288	1.5	17.0
First TransPennine Express	981	14,823	1.0	15.9
London Midland	6,198	48,346	1.5	11.9
London Overground	2,301	9,381	1.7	7.1
Merseyrail	2,077	13,255	1.0	6.5
National Express East Anglia	9,207	68,694	1.6	11.8
Northern Rail	7,626	93,989	1.0	11.8
South West Trains	6,034	52,815	1.0	8.9
Southeastern	5,227	60,576	0.9	10.6
Southern	5,954	62,531	0.9	9.8
Virgin Trains	878	14,131	1.3	20.1

2007-08

Train operating company	*Trains cancelled*	*Trains late at destination*	*Percentage cancelled*	*Percentage late*
c2c	1,249	4,920	1.1	4.4
Chiltern Railways	715	4,448	0.7	4.3
Crosscountry	1,267	17,698	1.3	18.2
East Coast	997	9,976	2.3	23.1
East Midlands Trains	2,197	18,865	1.6	14.0
First Capital Connect	4,280	26,962	1.3	8.1
First Great Western	8,153	79,244	1.8	17.1
First TransPennine Express	897	12,456	0.9	12.9
London Midland	5,623	38,846	1.4	9.7
London Overground	2,376	9,336	1.8	6.9
Merseyrail	1,847	9,011	0.9	4.4
National Express East Anglia	7,307	52,113	1.2	8.8
Northern Rail	8,670	83,594	1.1	10.4
South West Trains	3,890	41,668	0.7	7.1
Southeastern	5,102	49,592	0.9	8.5
Southern	5,627	60,619	0.9	9.3
Virgin Trains	678	15,248	0.9	20.4

2008-09

Train operating company	*Trains cancelled*	*Trains late*	*Percentage cancelled*	*Percentage late*
c2c	946	4,388	0.8	3.9
Chiltern Railways	738	4,360	0.7	4.1
Crosscountry	1,157	13,969	1.2	14.3
East Coast	625	8,351	1.4	18.8
East Midlands Trains	1,351	17,817	1.0	12.7
First Capital Connect	5,533	24,477	1.7	7.3
First Great Western	4,509	48,580	0.9	9.9
First TransPennine Express	1,001	14,916	1.0	15.0
London Midland	7,558	45,464	1.9	11.6
London Overground	1,339	9,734	0.9	6.8
Merseyrail	1,613	8,452	0.8	4.2
National Express East Anglia	6,493	53,422	1.1	9.0
Northern Rail	6,920	77,156	0.8	9.4
South West Trains	6,327	34,348	1.1	5.8
Southeastern	7,326	51,800	1.2	8.8
Southern	9,629	66,578	1.3	9.1
Virgin Trains	2,205	23,779	2.5	26.6

Note:

Commuter trains are classified as 'late' if they arrive at destination five or more minutes later than their scheduled arrival time. Intercity trains are classified as late if they arrive 10 or more minutes later than the scheduled arrival time.

Roads: Royal Mail

Damian Green: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many requests the Highways Agency has received from Royal Mail to clear the roads in *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Kent in the last two years. [313511]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency is responsible for the Strategic Road Network. It has not received any requests from Royal Mail to clear local authority or strategic roads either in Ashford or Kent in the last two years.

Rolling Stock: Construction

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to announce the location of the facility to assemble the super express Agility train; what locations are under consideration; and how many such trains he expects to comprise the super express fleet. [313255]

Chris Mole: The location of the manufacturing facility is a matter for Hitachi. The company has a number of locations under consideration, and I understand that it will make an announcement shortly. The super express fleet will comprise up to 1,400 rail vehicles.

Southend Airport

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the expansion of Southend airport on the local community in respect of *(a)* road traffic and *(b)* noise in the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [313145]

(2) which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations he consulted regarding the expansion of Southend airport; if he will place in the Library copies of the representations he has received to date on this matter; and if he will make a statement; [313146]

(3) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* departmental officials have had with representatives of BAA plc on proposals for the expansion of Southend airport in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [313151]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not consulted on the proposals to expand Southend airport, nor has it made any assessment of the effect of the proposed expansion on the local community in respect of road traffic or noise.

There have been no discussions between the Department for Transport and BAA on proposals for the expansion of Southend airport. Southend airport was purchased in December 2008 by Stobart Group Ltd. from Regional Airports Ltd.

"The Future of Air Transport" White Paper identified Southend airport as having a valuable role in meeting local demand and the potential to contribute to regional economic development. The White Paper supported further development in principle, subject to relevant environmental considerations. On 20 January Southend council made a decision to support the planning application for expansion proposals at Southend airport. The council's recommendation has now been submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for him to consider whether to call in the application for his own determination.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland at what speaking events *(a)* he and *(b)* his Under-Secretary of State has been represented by (i) a special adviser and (ii) another elected official from the Scotland Office since October 2007; for what reasons John McTernan withdrew from the Reform Scotland debate scheduled for 4 February 2010; on what date his Department informed Reform Scotland that he was unavailable to attend that debate; by what form of communication his Department informed Reform Scotland that John McTernan would take part in that debate; on what date this communication was sent; and on what date his Department informed Reform Scotland that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State would attend the event. [313580]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (PuSofS) and I have never been represented by a special adviser at a speaking event and the Scotland Office does not have elected officials.

The Scotland Office confirmed with Reform Scotland on 18 January 2010 that PuSofS would attend this debate if timing of parliamentary business allowed for this.

Departmental Publications

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* total, *(b)* production and *(c)* staff cost was of the preparation and publication of his Department's White Paper on Scotland's future in the United Kingdom; how many copies were printed; and to whom they were distributed. [313053]

Ann McKechin: The production cost of "Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom", including typesetting, printing, binding, mailing and TSO fees was £5,968.39. The preparation of the White Paper was the work of civil servants employed in the Scotland Office as part of their normal duties and therefore incurred no additional cost. A total of 1,055 copies were printed; these were divided between the Scotland Office, Parliament and TSO. Of these 750 were used by the Scotland Office for laying in Parliament, distribution to stakeholders and internal departmental use.

Fuel: Taxation

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* written correspondence, *(b)* electronic correspondence, *(c)* meetings and *(d)* other communications he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on (i) the Scottish economy and (ii) road fuel duty taxation between August 2008 and March 2009. [310784]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend is in regular contact with a range of Cabinet Ministers on issues affecting Scotland, and has been since his appointment in October 2008.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Arrest Warrants

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will lift the European Arrest Warrant which has led to the detention of Wansanatha Bulugah Aitya in Frankfurt. [312772]

The Solicitor-General: The European Arrest Warrant was executed on 27 December 2009 and the extradition process is under way in Germany.

A decision in an individual case not to pursue an extradition request would in any event be made by the relevant prosecuting agency, not by me or any other Minister.

Royal Family: Wills

Norman Baker: To ask the Solicitor-General in which official capacity the then Attorney-General acted in discussions with *(a)* Buckingham Palace, *(b)* the then Senior President of the Family Division and *(c)* Farrers in respect of the creation of a practice for the sealing of royal wills. [312448]

The Solicitor-General: In discussing the practice for the sealing of royal wills, the Attorney-General acts in his capacity as Attorney-General, acting in the public interest.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Sick Leave

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many working days were lost due to *(a)* illness and *(b)* stress of employees within her Office in each of the last three years. [309918]

Tessa Jowell: My office is staffed by employees of the Cabinet Office. departmental reports are published quarterly giving details of sickness absences, and these are available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/absence.aspx

Copies are also available in the Libraries of the House.

Information for absences from my office can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many businesses based in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* locations outside the UK have (i) registered with the London 2012 Business Network and (ii) secured Olympic contracts at each location. [312401]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The answer to the question is as follows:

The London 2012 Business Network hosts CompeteFor. CompeteFor is the chosen website of London 2012 for the publication of Games-related contract opportunities. Numbers of companies registered on CompeteFor and contracts awarded to CompeteFor suppliers are as follows:

Region	*Registrations*	*Contracts awarded to CompeteFor suppliers*
East of England	11,336	54
East Midlands	5,265	14
London	29,106	236
North East	2,089	12
North West	5,575	34
South East	17,596	104
South West	5,829	24
West Midlands	7,565	194
Yorkshire	4,922	20
Northern Ireland	1,109	1
Scotland	2,806	7
Wales	2,200	2
Non-UK	4,376	3
Total	100,556	707

It is important to note that these are the number of awarded contracts that have been recorded on the site by buyers and there will be other contracts that have been awarded, but not yet recorded. In total 4,700 contracts have been placed on CompeteFor.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the cost has been of maintaining the London 2012 Business Network in each year since its establishment. [312402]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The answer is as follows:

(a) CompeteFor cost £3.633 million to develop, which included concept development, specification, implementation and testing, and establishing the support structure.

(b) Running costs are as follows:

	£
Year 1 (December 2007 to March 2008)	220,000
Year 2 (April 2008 to March 2009)	1.241 million
Year 3 (April 2009 to March 2010)—projected at	1.241 million

Olympic Games 2012: Illegal Immigrants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how many arrests have been made of illegal immigrants working on the Olympic site since construction began; [305745]

(2) what checks the Government makes to ensure that employees working on the Olympic site are entitled to work in the UK; [305746]

(3) whether any companies working on the Olympic site have been fined for the employment of illegal immigrants since construction began. [305747]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Between 1 April 2009 and 10 December 2009, 49 people have been arrested attempting to gain employment, or working specifically at the Olympic park and athletes' village sites, 40 of these were never actually employed at the sites.

Prior to April 2009, no data exclusively for arrests on the Olympic park site are available. Arrest figures collected between April 2008 and March 2009 are for projects in Stratford and the surrounding area, and include the Olympic park and Olympic village. Only an aggregate figure is available for this period and a total of 138 foreign nationals seeking to gain employment or working at these locations (including the Stratford City Westfield development) were arrested on suspicion of working in the UK without permission or presenting false documentation during this time.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

The responsibility for ensuring employees have the right to work in the UK rests with the employer. Since April 2008, UKBA staff have been working with the Olympic Delivery Authority and contractors to support the site security process of checking that people employed on the Olympic park and athletes village hold genuine identity documents and are legally entitled to work in the UK.

Three employers have been issued with Notices of Potential Liability for employing illegal workers and failing to carry out the appropriate checks to confirm that their employees are entitled to work in the UK, Two have been fined, one was found not to be liable.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys were provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department since March 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [313171]

Mr. Simon: The information is as follows:

My Department has:

(a) Mobile phones—three for our Ministers only.

(b) BlackBerry devices.

(i) Three for the Ministers

(ii) Two for special advisers

The total cost is £2361.02

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313663]

Mr. Simon: Information on the average time taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Radio: Scotland

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the effects on rural communities in Scotland of ending FM/AM broadcasting in 2015. [312696]

Mr. Simon: There are no plans to end FM broadcasting in 2015.

Theatre: Young People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tickets have been taken up under the A Night Less Ordinary scheme. [313639]

Margaret Hodge: Between February 2009 and November 2009, 121,742 tickets were taken up by young people under the 'A Night Less Ordinary' scheme.

Results from 1 December 2009 to 28 February 2010 will be made available in April.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of overseas *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation units are in each grade in each country. [312657]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Single living accommodation (SLA) is graded by its scale (this consists of a number of factors including size and amount of storage) as well as physical condition. The best available data indicate that as at October 2009, the following number and percentage of overseas SLA bed-spaces were at the each grade:

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*	
Country	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Germany	2,146	16	1,137	8	3,553	26	6,773	50
Cyprus	60	3	—	—	247	14	1,460	83
Gibraltar	—	—	249	81	—	—	60	19
South Atlantic Islands	2	—	—	—	—	—	2,374	100
Rest of world	70	8	13	1	60	7	736	84
UK (as at December 2008)[1]	34,933	25	19,498	14	22,101	16	60,745	45

[1] The UK SLA figures, included for comparison purposes, are for the number of bed-spaces at each 'condition grade' rather than 'Grade for Charge'.

Service family accommodation (SFA) is assessed for standard for condition (SfC), a measure of the physical condition of a property. The best available data indicate that as at October 2009, the following number and percentage of overseas SFA properties were at each SfC:

	S1fC		*S2fC*		*S3fC*		*S4fC*	
Country	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Germany	3,766	33	2,948	26	3,590	31	1,146	10
Cyprus	224	10	410	19	50	2	1,503	69
Gibraltar	163	37	24	5	70	16	184	42
South Atlantic Islands	15	16	22	23	49	50	11	11
Rest of world	222	19	526	46	393	34	4	1
UK (as at December 2009)	12,718	38	19,689	59	1,034	3	204	Less than 1

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313185]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend, the Minister for International Defence and Security, Baroness Taylor of Bolton, to the noble Lady, Baroness Warsi of Dewsbury, in another place on 19 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA294.

4

NATO

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has made to the right hon. Member for Ashfield on NATO's *(a)* nuclear policy and *(b)* New Strategic Concept Group; and if he will make a statement. [313551]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) has been appointed to the Group of Experts advising on NATO's new Strategic Concept by Secretary-General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, in an independent capacity. Mr. Hoon is able to draw on support from the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the full range of issues associated with this work.

Trident Submarines

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the likely effects on life extension of Vanguard-class submarines, should continuous at-sea deterrence cease. [313549]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Government remain committed to the policy of Continuous At-Sea Deterrence, as set out in the 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994). The 2006 White Paper indicated that it might be possible to extend the life of the current submarines by five years and these studies are ongoing, based on the operating posture of Continuous At-Sea Deterrence.

Warships: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his review of the use of naval bases will include issues other than the relocation of Type 23 Frigates to Portsmouth; when the outcomes of the review will be published; and if he will make a statement. [312853]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 16WS, as part of work to consider the optimal base-porting arrangements for the less complex variants of the Future Surface Combatant (FSC), the Department would examine whether there is any case to change the base-porting of the Type 23 frigates. Under the Maritime Change Programme, key stakeholders, including representatives from Portsmouth and Plymouth city councils as well as naval base staff, are supporting Warwick university in developing a shared socio-economic model, which will help to greater understand the implications of any potential future change to warship base-porting arrangements at Portsmouth and Devonport.

The contiguous impact of three principal scenarios is to be initially investigated: the move of Trafalgar Class submarines from HM Naval Base Devonport to HM Naval Base Clyde; the decommissioning of Type 22 Frigates and any potential change to the current Type 23 base-porting arrangements. We aim to have this model ready in spring 2010 to help inform debate and decision making. The impact of any proposed base-porting changes across the Defence Lines of Development, including accommodation, support, personnel and infrastructure, will be also assessed during the decision making process.

Currently, no date has been agreed by when an announcement on any potential Type 23 base-porting arrangements will be made. As part of any future announcement, we will be able to confirm that there will be no base porting changes for around five years as we are committed to providing sufficient notice for Royal Navy personnel and their families and the wider community to plan for the future.

Warships: Shipbuilding

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* Astute and *(b)* Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programmes; and if he will make a statement. [313110]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: The Major Projects Report 2009 reported delays to the Astute Class Programme which will lead to cost growth and reduction in planned submarine availability. Of the seven planned Astute Class submarines the first four boats have been ordered. Boat 1 (Astute) is currently undergoing an extensive programme of Sea Trials while Boats 2 to 4 (Ambush, Artful and Audacious) are in various stages of construction. Orders for long lead items for Boat 5 and the reactor core for Boat 6 have also been placed.

Following the delays, work to re-baseline the Astute Programme is ongoing and the final impact on both the overall programme and individual boat build profile can only be confirmed once detailed joint planning and cost analysis work has been completed and MOD investment and HM Treasury re-approval has been obtained.

A competition for the Tanker element of the MARS Programme was originally started in late 2007. The competition was cancelled in March 2009 and subsequent work to review the procurement strategy concluded that a more open approach, considering a range of possible solutions, is more likely to secure best value for money. A new international competition for the Tanker element of MARS is therefore under way and Pre-Qualification Questionnaires from a number of companies/consortia are currently being evaluated. This work is nearing completion and, once internal MOD approval to proceed to the next stage of the competition has been granted, invitations to submit outline proposals will be issued. This is expected to be during spring 2010. On current plans the contract is due to be awarded in 2012.

The later classes of MARS ships, Fleet Solid Support and Amphibious Combat Support, remain uncommitted at this stage.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost was of maintaining her Office's website for the 2008-09 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within her responsibility in the 2009-10 financial year. [313039]

Barbara Keeley: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 534W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Algeria: Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department allocated to Algeria in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [312912]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme in Algeria and has not allocated any aid to the country between 2005 and 2009.

Details of DFID's aid expenditure in developing countries are published annually in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the House Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to *(a)* companies or individuals in the private sector and *(b)* other organisations. [313228]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). The CSC does not sell any information on a commercial basis to companies, individuals or other organisations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312832]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a senior civil service (SCS) structure consisting of four separate management grades. Below the SCS there are a further eight grades. The following table shows the total number of staff at each grade and their associated employment costs for the 2008-09 financial year.

DFID grade	*Traditional civil service grade*	*Number of staff*[1]	*Employment cost*[2] *(£000)*
SCS			
Permanent Secretary	Permanent Secretary	1	[3]n/a
Director General	Director General	4	[3]n/a
Director	Director	15	1,955
Deputy Director	Deputy Director	79	8,543
Below the SCS			
A1	G6	280	19,771
A2	G7	472	25,054
A2(L)	G7 (Lower)	133	5,853
B1(D)	HEO(D)—Fast Stream	51	1,773
B1	HEO	268	10,009
B2	EO	226	6,268
C1[4]	AO	161	3,554
C2[4]	AA	25	509

[1] Staff numbers are on a headcount basis and include all DFID home civil service staff.

[2] Employment cost consists of base salaries, overtime, performance related pay and includes the employer's share of NI and pension contributions.

[3] Cost withheld on confidentiality grounds as numbers in the grade are fewer than five.

[4] Staff in these grades do not have line management responsibilities.

Developing Countries: Educational Visits

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding for school children to visit developing countries his Department allocated to pupils who attended National Challenge schools in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [312735]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following table shows how much funding for school children to visit developing countries the Department for International Development (DFID) provided to National Challenge schools in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

DFID funding for children to visit developing countries who attend National Challenge schools (approximate figures)

	£
2008-09	5,370
2009-10	3,900

In 2009-10, fewer National Challenge schools applied for Global Curriculum Project grants compared to 2008-9. There were no unsuccessful applications from National Challenge schools in either 2008-09 or 2009-10.

This funding was provided through the Global School Partnerships programme implemented by the British Council.

Haiti: Overseas Aid

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the Government have provided to Haiti in each year since 1997; for what purposes; and with which non-governmental organisations his Department has worked in Haiti over this period. [312692]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) aid expenditure is published annually in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the House Library and at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The relevant figures for Haiti are reproduced in the following table.

UK Financial year	*Total UK bilateral aid*	£ *Total UK imputed multilateral aid*
1997-98	124,788	2,201,626
1998-99	59,225	2,015,828
1999-2000	16,209	7,837,425
2000-01	60,562	681,563
2001-02	130,395	3,787,737
2002-03	125,165	29,929,110
2003-04	129,747	5,065,698
2004-05	2,027,103	7,139,048
2005-06	1,282,616	19,790,351
2006-07	446,153	7,859,963
2007-08	0	14,377,519
2008-09	823,599	[1]—
2009-10	[2]735,000	[1]—

[1] Not yet available.

[2] These figures are provisional and only include spend up to 12 January 2010.

In addition to these annual figures the UK has pledged £20 million in emergency assistance since the earthquake of 12 January 2010.

The majority of the UK's support to Haiti has been through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations (UN) agencies, the European Commission (EC) and World Bank. DFID does not have a regular bilateral programme for medium and long term development in Haiti. However bilateral aid has been provided for humanitarian purposes and debt relief.

Since 1997 DFID has supported work in Haiti by the following non-governmental organisations: Fonkoze, Oxfam, Handicap International, Action against Hunger, ActionAid, Catholic Aid for Overseas Development (CAFOD), CARE International, Christian Aid, Ethical Training Initiative, HelpAge International, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Panos, Progressio and Transparency International.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much emergency aid has been provided to Haiti by the EU since the recent earthquake; and what discussions he has had at EU level on provision of aid. [312693]

Mr. Michael Foster: On 18 January I attended a meeting of EU Ministers responsible for development and humanitarian aid in Brussels to discuss the support that the EU would provide to Haiti in the short, medium and long term. At the meeting, the European Commission pledged €30 million for emergency assistance, along with €100 million for early rehabilitation. It was also indicated that some €200 million more will be available for longer term reconstruction. These contributions are in addition to the €92 million pledged by individual EU countries at the same meeting.

Since the earthquake struck on 12 January, the Secretary of State for International Development has been in regular contact with the European Union High Representative Cathy Ashton, together with other European Ministers.

Morocco: Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department allocated to Morocco in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [312913]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme in Morocco. In 2005-06 DFID spent £1 million on humanitarian assistance. No other bilateral aid has been allocated to Morocco between 2005 and 2009.

Details of DFID's aid expenditure in developing countries are published in Statistics on International Development, which is available in the Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the policy of results-based aid; and if he will make a statement. [312918]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer provided on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 287-8, on results-based aid.

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has made available to the government of *(a)* Sudan and *(b)* Southern Sudan to assist preparations for the forthcoming (i) elections and (ii) referendum. [312616]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide any funds directly to the Government of Sudan or the Government of Southern Sudan.

However, we have supported preparations for the election since 2007 through alternative means. DFID has spent £2.95 million providing training to the media and domestic observation groups as well as technical assistance on civic education and conflict management. We have also contributed £1.5 million to the Elections Basket Fund, managed by UN Development programme (UNDP). This fund provides support to all aspects of the electoral process, and continues the focus on civic and voter education and conflict prevention. On 6 January 2010, the UK announced a further £8.05 million contribution to the Elections Basket Fund, bringing our total contribution to support elections in Sudan to £12.5 million.

The UK is looking into kind of what assistance we can provide to support the referendum due to take place in 2010. We continue to discuss the nature and co-ordination of this support with the parties in Sudan and all our international partners.

West Africa: Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase aid to Morocco, Tunisia and Libya to help these states tackle illegal immigration from Western Africa to Europe. [312849]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) aims to provide 90 per cent. of funding to low income countries. Given the middle income status of the majority of North African countries they are not the focus for our bilateral aid programmes.

The UK works closely with EU member states and third country partners to tackle illegal immigration into the EU. Illegal immigration is an important issue for the UK and the EU and we continue to work with third country partners on a range of operational activities and agreements, both bilaterally and with our EU partners.

This work takes various forms such as the Assisted Voluntary Return scheme in Libya implemented by the International Organisation for Migration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Caribbean: EU External Trade

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on individual Caribbean countries signing Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU; and what recent representations he has received on the fairness of such agreements. [309435]

Chris Bryant: The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the CARIFORUM States and the European Community (EC) and its member states was signed by 13 CARIFORUM states on 15 October 2008: Antigua and Barbuda, The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, The Commonwealth of Dominica, The Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, The Republic of Suriname, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Republic of Guyana signed on 20 October 2008 and most recently The Republic of Haiti signed on 11 December 2009. With the signature of Haiti, all 15 Caribbean states who chose to negotiate the EPA with the EC have now signed. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received any recent representations on the fairness of this agreement.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have plans to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 per cent. in 2010. [311432]

Chris Bryant: Yes, on 8 February 2010, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary plans to sign up the UK operations of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and our Trading Fund, FCO Services, to the 10:10 campaign and will urge our network of overseas posts to follow suit.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313225]

Chris Bryant: Government Departments and agencies and non-departmental public bodies that have Crown status make most of their information available for free re-use under the Public Sector Information Click-Use Licence. Government trading funds, such as Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services, for which I have ministerial responsibility, are able under their trading fund status to charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs. This covers information and its supply provided to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals. In common with other Government policy initiatives, some Foreign and Commonwealth Office information is published and sold as priced publications.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys were provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department in 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [313174]

Chris Bryant: At the start of 2009 a total of nine BlackBerries and one car phone were in operation. Ministers had a total of six BlackBerries and one car phone assigned between them. Special advisers were allocated a total of three BlackBerries

After the reshuffle in June the total was reduced to four BlackBerries, one mobile phone and one car phone.

Ministers had two BlackBerries, one mobile phone and one car phone in use between them. Special advisers were allocated a total of two BlackBerries.

Our billing cycle runs quarterly from 1 December to 30 November. Provision and usage of mobile phones for Ministers and special advisors over the 12-month period 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009 has cost £7,263.56. This is broken down as follows:

Provision and usage of mobile phones for Ministers: £6,246.53

Provision and usage of mobile phones for special advisers: £1,017.03.

December 2009 expenditure will appear on our February statement.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the evidence of the Permanent Under-Secretary to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 9 December 2009, HC 145-i, question 10, at which overseas posts local staff have *(a)* lost overtime payments, *(b)* been asked to take involuntary unpaid leave and *(c)* been asked to work four-day weeks. [311592]

David Miliband: Decisions about overtime, unpaid leave and working patterns for locally engaged staff are devolved to delegated budget holders and individual posts. Comprehensive information on these decisions are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 December 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. S Choudhry. [313438]

David Miliband: I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 22 January 2010.

Snow and Ice

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313588]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Western Sahara

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what remedy exists under international law to remove settlements in the occupied Western Sahara which are deemed to be illegal. [312362]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government see the status of the disputed territory of Western Sahara as undetermined and continue to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. Therefore, any issues relating to residence and property rights will need to be considered in this context.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Western Sahara; and what steps he is taking to assist in improvements to the human rights situation in that territory. [312312]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and our embassy in Rabat visited Layounne in December 2009 to assess the situation. A similar visit was also carried out in March 2009 to the refugee camps in Tindouf (Algeria) by an official from our embassy in Algiers. We will continue our programme of visits and our embassy in Rabat is developing links with Moroccan and Sahrawi non-governmental organisations who work on the dispute.

The Government believe that greater openness and transparency on human rights by all the parties to the dispute would create a significantly better environment for political dialogue through the auspices of the UN. We support the call by the UN Secretary-General, in his latest report, for the parties to remain engaged in a continuous and constructive dialogue with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to make progress on the human dimension of the conflict.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on antisocial behaviour, what the names are of the expert practitioners on the action squad. [303784]

Alan Johnson: The antisocial behaviour squad is a group of established practitioners working with our ASB local delivery managers to ensure that antisocial behaviour is effectively tackled. It is made up of 66 skilled practitioners, drawn from a broad range of expertise and specialisms including the police, councils and housing organisations, with national coverage which can be called upon at short notice to help local areas deliver the package of measures I announced on 13 October 2009.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 283W, on antisocial behaviour orders, how many antisocial behaviour orders were breached following the imposition of a parenting order in the latest period for which figures are available. [303785]

Alan Johnson: Data collected centrally by my Department on breaches of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) cover the period to the end of 2007 (latest currently available). ASBO breach data compiled by my Department do not include details of whether defendants proven in court to have breached their ASBO were subject to either an individual support order or a parenting order. This information could only be ascertained by examination of individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an automated authority to carry capability will be specified in his Department's contract with Trusted Borders for services relating to the e-borders programme. [312900]

Mr. Woolas: The automated authority to carry capability did not form part of the core services in the e-Borders contract signed on 14 November 2007. However, it was included as an agreed option within the contract, as a potential future service.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on the implementation of the e-Borders programme; whether the programme met its project milestones in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [312901]

Mr. Woolas: The project milestone for processing 100 million annualised passenger movements per year has been met by the e-Borders Programme.

The programme has not yet achieved the milestone for processing 60 per cent. of all passenger journeys into and out of the UK.

Currently, e-Borders is checking between 45 and 50 per cent.[1] of all passenger movements.

[1] This figure is subject to verification by statisticians.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the level of compliance by airlines with the data requirements of the e-Borders programme; and when he expects all airlines to implement that programme. [312902]

Mr. Woolas: Currently 111 carriers are providing data to the e-Borders system, covering approximately 2,454 routes.

It is expected that all commercial airlines will be compliant by the end of December 2010, in line with the Prime Minister's statement of 20 January.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department expects to meet its target of capturing 100 million passenger movements through passenger name record checks; and how many such movements have been captured to date. [312907]

Mr. Woolas: We have met our target to capture the travel document information (TDI) for 100 million passenger movements.

To date, through the e-Borders system and its pilot project Semaphore, TDI data have been processed on over 147 million passengers travelling to and from the UK, at an annualised rate of over 100 million passenger movements per year.

e-Borders expects to capture 100 million passenger name record (PNR) movements into and out of the UK by 2013.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on the inclusion of the category of other passenger information in the e-Borders programme. [312909]

Mr. Woolas: Other passenger information (OPI) is known within the aviation industry as passenger name record (PNR).

OPI collection will be rolled out on a phased approach, with particular focus on higher risk routes first. The e-Borders/Semaphore system is already collecting OPI data on a voluntary basis and includes 121 carriers on 76 routes.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the authority to carry element of the e-Borders programme. [312910]

Mr. Woolas: Following a limited trial last year and the Prime Minister's recent statement on security and border protection, we are examining the options for preventing people travelling to the United Kingdom. No recent estimate has been made of the cost of implementing an authority to carry scheme through the e-Borders Programme.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has plans to increase the number of security checks on *(a)* outbound and *(b)* transit passenger movements carried out by the UK Border Agency. [312925]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency officers carry out a range of intelligence-led checks on outbound and transit passengers. More than 50 per cent. of the data analysed by our e-Borders system relate to people who are leaving British ports. This will increase as e-Borders continues to roll out.

Following the Prime Minister's recent statement on security and border protection, we are examining the options for strengthening our checks further.

British Nationality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations govern the re-admission to the UK of a UK national who has taken US citizenship but whose citizenship has been revoked upon deportation from the United States. [312726]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: All passengers, including deportees, who claim to be British nationals, must be able to demonstrate this on arrival in the UK. This is normally achieved by presentation of a valid travel document, confirming their nationality and identity. The requirement is irrespective of any other nationality currently or previously held by the passenger.

British nationals are not subject to immigration control; however, all arriving passengers are checked against the Watchlist. In certain circumstances, their arrival in the UK may be referred to other law enforcement agencies, for further action.

Community Safety Accreditation Schemes

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each area have been approved by the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme since it was introduced. [302192]

Alan Johnson: Community Safety Accreditation Schemes allow Chief Officers to designate limited powers to employees of organisations which contribute towards community safety and tackling antisocial behaviour (ASB) such as park wardens, train operators and private security guards. These powers enhance the contribution of people in roles that are already concerned with keeping communities safe; and mean that there are more people on the streets with powers to tackle and not tolerate ASB.

The Home Office does not hold the information requested centrally. In order to provide an answer, all police forces that have operated a scheme would have to be asked to provide figures and this could be done only at disproportionate cost. The Home Office does conduct an annual audit of persons accredited by each police force. This is a snapshot of accredited persons at one time and does not represent all people accredited over time. Figures for accredited persons in the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are collected separately as theirs is a specialist role with a single power granted to stop vehicles for testing. The last published figures, for 2008, are set out in the following table. The 2009 CSAS audit was published on the Home Office website on 15 December 2009 and can be accessed at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/community-policing/citizen-focused-policing/community-safety-accredit-scheme/index29f9.html?version=9

Force area	*Accredited persons (non-VOSA)*	*spring 2008 VOSA accredited persons*
Avon and Somerset	11	6
Bedfordshire	0	8
British Transport Police	129	0
Cambridgeshire	0	2
Cheshire	17	24
City of London	0	0
Cleveland	82	0
Cumbria	0	4
Derbyshire	0	6
Devon and Cornwall	5	0
Dorset	0	0
Durham	65	6
Dyfed and Powys	0	0
Essex	291	10
Gloucestershire	0	5
Greater Manchester	0	5
Gwent	75	5
Hampshire	111	6
Hertfordshire	117	7
Humberside	0	0
Kent	138	14
Lancashire	51	8
Leicestershire	8	7
Lincolnshire	0	3
Merseyside	0	6
Metropolitan Police	0	0
Norfolk	0	8
Northamptonshire	57	7
North Wales	0	8
North Yorkshire	0	0
Northumbria	0	3
Nottinghamshire	120	5
South Wales	0	4
South Yorkshire	7	8
Staffordshire	0	11
Suffolk	0	4
Surrey	40	3
Sussex	12	13
Thames Valley	0	24
Warwickshire	28	0
West Mercia	32	17
West Midlands	10	0
West Yorkshire	0	8
Wiltshire	0	0

Counter-terrorism

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many journalists have been arrested under counter-terrorism legislation for taking photographs since 2000; and whether any such journalists have been prosecuted. [312736]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office collates statistics showing the number of individuals convicted of offences related to terrorism. These were included in a bulletin published on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008), and subsequently on 26 November 2009 (Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: Arrests, outcomes and stops and searches Great Britain 2008-09).

These statistics, however, do not include details on the number of journalists that have been arrested and prosecuted for taking photographs under Counter Terrorism legislation since 2000. The Home Office does not hold these statistics.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Twickenham of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on crime, what the equivalent figures are for each year from 1998-99 to 2001-02. [303786]

Alan Johnson: The available information is given in the table. The offence groups used are those in place at the time the data were published. The offence of indecent exposure was included in the 'Other' offences rather than, as now, in the sexual offences group . There have also been changes with respect to two other rarer offences (bigamy and concealing an infant death close to birth). Figures are given for the old offence group of 'Theft and handling stolen goods' which is now split into 'Offences against vehicles' and 'Other theft'.

In addition, the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Because of this and the differences referred to above, the data given in the table are not directly comparable with those provided in the answer on 16 October 2009.

Detection rates are a ratio of crime detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Percentage of offences resulting in a specific method of detection by offence group[1]

	Percentage of offences recorded resulting in:			
Offence group and financial year	*Charge or summons*	*Caution*	*Penalty notice for disorder*	*Offence taken into consideration*
Violence against the person				
1998-99	38	10	n/a	0
1999-2000[1]	36	9	n/a	0
2000-01[1]	35	9	n/a	0
2001-02[1]	33	8	n/a	0
Sexual offences				
1998-99	45	5	n/a	0
1999-2000[1]	39	5	n/a	0
2000-01[1]	36	4	n/a	0
2001-02[1]	35	4	n/a	0
Robbery				
1998-99	17	1	n/a	1
1999-2000	14	1	n/a	1
2000-01	14	1	n/a	1
2001-02	14	0	n/a	1
Burglary				
1998-99	7	1	n/a	4
1999-2000[1]	7	1	n/a	4
2000-01[1]	7	1	n/a	4
2001-02[1]	7	0	n/a	4
Theft and handling stolen goods				
1998-99	11	4	n/a	2
1999-2000[1]	11	3	n/a	2
2000-01[1]	11	3	n/a	2
2001-02[1]	10	3	n/a	2
Fraud and forgery				
1998-99	18	3	n/a	11
1999-2000[1]	15	3	n/a	8
2000-01[1]	15	3	n/a	8
2001-02[1]	15	2	n/a	8
Criminal damage				
1998-99	8	3	n/a	1
1999-2000[1]	8	3	n/a	0
2000-01[1]	7	3	n/a	0
2001-02[1]	7	3	n/a	0
Drug offences				
1998-99	50	41	n/a	0
1999-2000[1]	52	39	n/a	0
2000-01[1]	54	35	n/a	0
2001-02[1]	52	34	n/a	0
Other offences				
1998-99	62	7	n/a	1
1999-20[illegible]	60	7	n/a	1
2000-01[illegible]	58	7	n/a	0
2001-02[1]	69	11	n/a	2
Total				
1998-99	15	5	n/a	3
1999-2000[1]	14	4	n/a	2
2000-01[1]	14	4	n/a	2
2001-02[1]	14	4	n/a	2

n-a = not available. Penalty notices for disorder were only introduced in August 2002.

[1] Estimated based on returns from 42 police forces.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing from networked computers in his Department. [310051]

Mr. Woolas: The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures to which Departments must adhere.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information relating to security of departmental IT systems. Disclosing such information would carry a significant risk of enabling criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for each such category of expenditure in 2009-10. [310758]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(a) Strategy and planning costs are embedded in other costs and cannot be extracted from other running costs for the years required.

(b) Design and build costs as follows:

	£
2006-07	[1]—
2007-08	56,000
2008-09	36,000
2009-10	Nil

[1] Not available as a separate figure.

(c) The costs of hosting, licensing, domain registration, and updates.

	£
2006-07	750,100
2007-08	620,000
2008-09	577,000
2009-10	583,000

(d) Content provision is partly incorporated in the costs given for hosting etc and partly with other costs. It is not possible to extract these costs.

(e) Testing and evaluation costs:

	£
2006-07	n/a
2007-08	90,000
2008-09	23,000
2009-10	[1]179,003

[1] This includes allocations for user research and information architecture development, resulting from the movement of content to Direct.gov

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300657]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department does not have any direct employer-employee relationships with individual consultants or contractors.

The Department engages consultants and contractors through suppliers on consultancy and contractor assignments. We do not, therefore, pay the salaries, nor any incentives or bonuses for these individuals.

Deportation

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportations of residents of the London borough of Bexley without leave to remain there have been in each of the last three years. [310687]

Mr. Woolas: Information of the number of individuals who were resident in the London borough of Bexley who have been removed in each of the last three years could be obtained only by undertaking a search of case files which would incur disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Drugs: Cannabis

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* simple cautions for cannabis possession and *(b)* cannabis warnings have been issued by each police force in each year since 2004. [300754]

Alan Johnson: The number of cautions and cannabis warnings recorded by the police in England and Wales as a method of detection for possession of cannabis offences are given in Tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1: Number of cautions recorded as method of detection for possession of cannabis offences, by police force area in England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Police force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	345	504	563	616	616
Bedfordshire	35	45	55	162	215
British Transport Police	775	1,009	975	752	737
Cambridgeshire	192	269	243	267	273
Cheshire	353	389	148	240	188
Cleveland	248	294	308	263	336
Cumbria	216	194	184	212	168
Derbyshire	131	259	162	247	265
Devon and Cornwall	468	630	404	466	442
Dorset	259	260	249	218	199
Durham	116	149	141	139	154
Dyfed-Powys	467	438	406	337	286
Essex	367	443	498	696	814
Gloucestershire	181	213	180	220	312
Greater Manchester	1,013	1,341	1,067	1,285	1,213
Gwent	437	316	347	324	324
Hampshire	824	550	405	617	556
Hertfordshire	253	302	281	434	567
Humberside	314	389	272	252	222
Kent	443	524	454	637	557
Lancashire	651	782	701	832	780
Leicestershire	479	512	320	276	276
Lincolnshire	184	135	133	133	141
London, City of	78	133	147	142	81
Merseyside	1,786	1,003	529	1,125	1,451
Metropolitan Police	17,841	5,071	4,929	4,458	4,643
Norfolk	241	200	276	255	223
Northamptonshire	384	384	390	329	205
Northumbria[1]	1,045	1,019	592	398	346
North Wales	351	324	219	333	357
North Yorkshire	29	23	36	124	124
Nottinghamshire	279	604	535	631	542
South Wales	433	376	275	340	405
South Yorkshire	395	452	582	630	610
Staffordshire	445	493	507	473	342
Suffolk	245	857	216	221	252
Surrey	468	440	371	424	395
Sussex	559	884	865	1,076	672
Thames Valley	1,191	1,618	1,303	1,401	1,444
Warwickshire	122	220	292	297	269
West Mercia	466	481	443	401	423
West Midlands	1,343	1,797	1,784	1,964	2,165
West Yorkshire	1,064	1,036	723	621	556

Table 1: Number of cautions recorded as method of detection for possession of cannabis offences, by police force area in England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Police force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Wiltshire	222	191	147	120	200
England and Wales	37,738	27,553	23,657	25,388	25,346

Table 2: Number of cannabis warnings recorded as method of detection for possession of cannabis offences, by police force area in England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Police force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Avon and Somerset	977	2,578	3,600	2,554	2,598
Bedfordshire	603	643	324	289	347
British Transport Police	659	203	430	1,707	3,214
Cambridgeshire	349	492	956	1,594	1,257
Cheshire	311	393	532	757	1,109
Cleveland	120	192	331	686	851
Cumbria	272	244	231	218	272
Derbyshire	665	513	497	520	600
Devon and Cornwall	1,956	1,532	1,473	1,380	1,571
Dorset 369	340	348	393	349	
Durham	252	207	257	256	333
Dyfed-Powys	917	799	887	882	794
Essex	556	697	722	1,348	1,597
Gloucestershire	371	395	419	459	529
Greater Manchester	1,751	3,235	4,943	5,311	5,136
Gwent	159	396	646	757	998
Hampshire	698	1,113	1,477	2,260	1,943
Hertfordshire	258	488	1,394	1,485	1,897
Humberside	32	149	533	895	991
Kent	198	497	652	846	1,276
Lancashire	390	237	210	528	791
Leicestershire	154	978	1,555	1,967	1,701
Lincolnshire	79	473	543	508	491
London City of	505	682	373	436	506
Merseyside	961	8,561	7,204	7,229	8,114
Metropolitan Police	13,160	21,040	30,554	46,979	47,204
Norfolk	486	638	731	786	751
Northamptonshire	120	111	206	311	439
Northumbria[2]	n/a	n/a	761	916	1,459
North Wales	543	799	971	985	1,059
North Yorkshire	727	655	554	701	665
Nottinghamshire	529	855	1,077	1,210	950
South Wales	520	536	1,266	2,414	2,220
South Yorkshire	560	1,023	1,027	1,296	1,627
Staffordshire	867	1,323	1,282	1,150	1,153
Suffolk	600	64	573	599	744
Surrey	523	482	754	993	811
Sussex	866	1,350	1,971	2,447	1,369
Thames Valley	2,232	1,883	2,431	2,753	2,518
Warwickshire	340	418	650	399	342
West Mercia	572	582	686	756	872
West Midlands	2,025	3,451	2,852	2,286	2,229
West Yorkshire	1,212	1,839	1,539	1,340	1,245
Wiltshire	274	394	231	218	329
England and Wales	39,718	63,480	80,653	103,804	107,251

n/a= Not available

1. Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can be given for cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted together with cannabis warnings.

2 Northumbria Police have advised that their IT Data Capture System was unable to separately identify cannabis warnings during 2004-05 and 2005-06 and that for these two years their cautions data have been inflated by what are now counted as cannabis warnings.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many referrals of potential victims of trafficking to the National Referral Mechanism *(a)* a positive conclusive grounds decision has been made, *(b)* a negative conclusive grounds decision has been made, *(c)* a decision is pending and *(d)* no decision has been made. [310949]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 January 2010]*: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been 527 referrals made to competent authorities within the National Referral Mechanism. The breakdown of decisions are as follows:

	Number
Did not proceed to conclusive grounds (negative at reasonable grounds)	131
Negative conclusive grounds decision	47
Positive conclusive grounds decision	85
Suspended	19
No decision recorded	245
Total	527

Notes:

1. 'Suspended' cases are where the individual has either absconded or is missing prior to a decision being made.

2. 'No decision recorded' means the decision has not been officially logged with UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). This is where the reasonable grounds decision is either still being considered or where the decision has yet to be recorded on the UKHTC system.

Immigration Controls

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions immigration judges have overturned a decision on an application made under each tier of the points-based immigration system since the implementation of that system. [312880]

Mr. Woolas: There is no right of appeal to an immigration judge for applications refused out of country.

The information for in country appeals is as follows:

Number of appeals allowed under each tier of PBS: 29 February 2008 - 31 December 2009[1]

	2008				*2009*		
Tier	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*
1	[2]—	5	45	305	1125	1985	1480
2	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	[2]—	45	100
3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[2]—	130

Number of appeals allowed under each tier of PBS: 29 February 2008 - 31 December 2009[1]

	2008				2009		
Tier	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*
5	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	[2]—	[2]—

n/a = Not applicable as tier had not been introduced.

[1] For in-country applications only. Outside the UK a refusal of entry clearance under PBS does not attract a full right of appeal.

[2] 1 or 2.

Notes:

1. All figures rounded to nearest 5.
2. All figures quoted are provisional and derived from internal management information. The information has not been quality assured through National Statistics protocols

Islam4UK: Wootton Bassett

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received in respect of proposals by Islam4UK to march in Wootton Bassett. [309641]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The Government received a number of public and parliamentary representations about proposals from Islam4UK to march in Wootton Bassett. The Government condemn any group that promotes hatred and discord and the Home Secretary issued a statement on 4 January that he would support the operational judgment of the police in consenting to a ban if Wiltshire police and the local authority received an application to march from Islam4UK and, under the provisions of the Public Order Act 1986, sought a banning order.

The Home Secretary laid an order on 11 January which came into force on 14 January and which provides that Islam4UK and a number of other names should be treated as alternative names for an organisation which is already proscribed as Al Ghurabaa and The Saved Sect.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will refuse permission to Islam4UK to hold a demonstration in the town of Wootton Bassett if that group requests permission. [310079]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The Home Secretary issued a statement on 4 January that he would support the operational judgment of the police in consenting to a ban if Wiltshire police and the local authority received an application to march from Islam4UK and, under the provisions of the Public Order Act 1986, sought a banning order.

The Home Secretary laid an Order on 11 January which came into force on 14 January and which provides that Islam4UK and a number of other names should be treated as alternative names for an organisation which is already proscribed as Al Ghurabaa and The Saved Sect. While the proposed march in Wootton Bassett was of no relevance to the consideration which led to this Order, one of the consequences of proscription is to criminalise any meeting organised by, in support of, or addressed by a member of Islam4UK.

Passports: Fees and Charges

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the visa section of the British embassy in Berne received in overseas passport fees in respect of passports issued in Switzerland in each of the last five years. [313539]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

Our records show that our embassy in Berne received the following fees for passports over the last five years:

	£
2004-05	2,400
2005-06	2,800
2006-07	1,800
2007-08	2,600
2008-09	2,600
Total	12,200

Passports: Forgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forged passports have been seized each year since 1997. [312760]

Mr. Woolas: The following table details the detections of false passports encountered by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of the Home Office (before 31 March 2007), the Border and Immigration Agency (between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008) and the UK Border Agency (since 1 April 2008).

	Number
1997	4,411
1998	6,338
1999	5,516
2000	5,394
2001	7,320
2002	10,125
2003	9,546
2004	10,620
2005	7,712
2006	7,354
2007	6,939
2008	5,960

Figures for 2009 are not yet available. Figures from 1997 to 2000 inclusive represent detections at the border only. Those from 2001 to 2008 inclusive detail detections at the border and those made in country by caseworking offices and enforcement officers. They do not include the numbers of inadequately documented passengers denied boarding by commercial carriers overseas working in conjunction with UK Immigration Liaison Officers and Managers (formerly Airline Liaison Officers) from the Risk and Liaison Overseas Network. Some of these passengers will have held false documents but precise figures for the numbers denied boarding for this reason are unavailable.

Police

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of police *(a)* time and *(b)* budget spent on tackling (i) acquisitive, (ii) sex work-related and (iii) drug-related crime. [310083]

Mr. Hanson: The table contains information on the percentages of police time and budget spent on dealing with acquisitive crimes, drugs offences, and non-crime incidents related to prostitution in 2007-08. It should be noted that prostitution is not in itself a crime.

Some incidences of other crime types (such as violence against the person) may be related to either sex work or drugs; time spent on these is not recorded separately, so it is not possible to give an estimate of time and budget spent upon them.

Table A: Time spent on dealing with acquisitive crimes, drugs offences, and non-crime incidents related to prostitution in 2007-08[1]

	(a) percentage of time spent on dealing with[2]*:*	*(b) percentage of budget spent on*[3]*:*
(i) Acquisitive crimes[4]	10.5	11.8
(ii) Prostitution-related incidents	0.1	0.1
(iii) Drugs offences	2.5	3.1

[1] Crime prevention activity is excluded from these figures, as it is not possible to break this activity down by the crime prevented.

[2] Figures in column (a) exclude data from Staffordshire, which are not available.

[3] Figures in column (b) exclude data from Essex, Staffordshire, Suffolk and Thames Valley, which are not available.

[4] Acquisitive crime includes burglary from a dwelling, burglary from commercial or other premises, robbery, theft of or from a motor vehicle, and other theft.

Police Patrolling

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what his policy is on single patrols; and if he will make a statement; [312924]

(2) whether he has made a recent assessment of the level of risk to the safety of police officers undertaking single patrols; and if he will make a statement. [312929]

Mr. Hanson: In the Home Office's recent policing White Paper, "Protecting the Public: Supporting the Police to Succeed", we reiterate our support for police forces to develop patrolling strategies which maximise visibility and public engagement, and which increase efficient and effective deployment.

The advantages of single patrols go well beyond increased cost-effectiveness. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of single patrols at engaging communities, particularly at the level of neighbourhood foot patrol.

Greater community engagement and increased visibility are both crucial to increasing public confidence in the police. Figures released from the British Crime Survey on 21 January 2010 showed a 4 per cent. year-on-year increase in public confidence in the police and partners working together to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour (in the 12 months to September 2009).

The decision to employ single patrols is an operational policing issue, made by the police force in question.

Police: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police authority area are deployed *(a)* to Iraq, *(b)* to Afghanistan and *(c)* elsewhere outside the UK; and how many are serving in specialist units outside their force area. [312999]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* There are currently eight serving and one retired UK civilian police officers deployed to Iraq. Of the serving officers two are from the Metropolitan Police Service, two from Hertfordshire and one from each of the following areas: Cheshire, Norfolk, Northumbria and South Wales.

There are currently 21 serving and eight retired UK civilian police officers deployed to Afghanistan. Of the serving officers 15 are from the Ministry of Defence police, one from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and one from each of the following areas: City of London, Leicestershire, Sussex, Kent and Northumbria.

There are currently 13 serving and two retired UK civilian police officers deployed to other countries on Peace Support Operations (mainly Kosovo and Georgia). Of the serving officers seven are from the Ministry of Defence police, two from the Metropolitan Police Service and one from each of the following areas: Hertfordshire, Surrey, Cheshire and South Wales.

In addition to the above longer-term deployments, which are typically for six to 12 months, shorter term police assistance overseas is provided on a frequent basis. In 2009, the Home Office issued 943 authorisations under section 26 of the Police Act 1996 to police officers and staff from forces in England and Wales in respect of travel overseas to provide assistance to an international organisation or other body engaged outside the UK in policing activities. The majority of these authorisations were in respect of short-term assistance on a wide range of policing matters to numerous countries.

The Home Office does not collect information on the number of officers serving in specialist units in the UK outside their force area.

Shellfish: Testing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animals were used in the safety testing of shellfish in 2008; which shellfish were being tested; and for which poisons the animals were tested. [311019]

Meg Hillier: EU Directive 91/492/EEC, and Commission Decision 2002/225/EC, specify the shellfish types, toxin classes, and test methods used.

However, with respect to the animal numbers used, the information requested is not available, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007) and the National Statistician's guidance 'Confidentiality of Official Statistics'. Providing the information requested would breach statistical confidentiality relating to individual establishments and individual licensees.

Terrorism

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the Metropolitan Police Authority area detained on suspicion of terrorist or related offences were released because there was not enough evidence to charge them within 28 days in the last two years. [313344]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* The Home Office does not hold statistics which will answer this question. Investigations into terrorism suspects in the Metropolitan Police Authority area are the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Service and security services. Responsibility for prosecution of terrorism suspects lies with the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the date of arrest was of each individual who has been held in pre-charge detention without charge under counter-terrorism legislation for more than 14 days. [313342]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* To date, three individuals have been held in pre-charge detention under counter-terrorism legislation for more than 14 days and subsequently released without charge. Their date(s) of arrest were as follows:

1. 9 August 2006
2. 10 August 2006
3. 10 August 2006.

All three were released on 6 September 2006.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist or related offences for over *(a)* 14 days and *(b)* 28 days in the last 10 years; [313337]

(2) what the date was of the most recent arrest under counter-terrorism legislation following which a suspect was held in pre-charge detention for over *(a)* 14 days and *(b)* 28 days. [313345]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way. However, the Home Office does collate statistics on the number of terrorism arrests and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the link below:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Terrorism: Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many potential prosecutions of terrorist suspects have been unable to proceed because of the expiry of the 28-day limit on detaining suspects without charge since the entry into force of that limit. [313343]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* The Home Office does not hold statistics which will answer this question. Investigations into, and prosecutions of, terrorism suspects are the responsibility of the police and security services and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Vetting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department issues to police forces on the types of information to be disclosed in soft data disclosures under enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. [312641]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Section 113 B (4) of Part V of the Police Act 1997 requires that in addition to criminal record information from the Police National Computer (PNC), enhanced certificates should include any other information which a chief police officer considers might be relevant to the job application in question.

This is usually non-conviction information deriving from local force records and is referred to as 'approved information'; chief officers are obliged to provide such information for Enhanced certificates under the Act. Where disclosed, information of this nature is considered by the police to represent a factual record of previous events that an employer in the most sensitive type of occupation should be aware of in making an employment decision affecting the most vulnerable groups of people.

Factors that would be taken into consideration when making decisions to disclose would include, but not be restricted to, the position the individual is currently applying for, the age of the information, whether the information might be directly relevant to the assessment of the person's suitability to work with children and whether it is reasonable to disclose the information, bearing in mind the human rights of the individuals concerned.

In making such assessments, the chief officers follow guidelines including, Home Office circular 5/2005, "Criminal Records Bureau: Local Checks by Police Forces for the Purpose of Enhanced checks", and this has been augmented by a process known as the Quality Assurance Framework. The circular makes clear that consideration has been given to a person's right to privacy under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In this regard there is a section in the circular which details what factors should be considered in determining relevancy.

The Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) is a standardised approach to processing local intelligence information held by Police Force Disclosure Units and was developed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the CRB. QAF provides a step-by-step process framework that ensures that information is considered consistently and in the same way every time. Searches performed on local systems using the QAF Framework and document set produce an audit trail that can be used for quality assurance and to assure QAF compliance.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Trusts Services Authority issues guidance to local authorities on obtaining information on the sexual orientation of social tenants and leaseholders. [313087]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 make it unlawful for public authorities (which includes local housing authorities) to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation in the provision of goods, facilities and services, the disposal and management of premises and the exercise of public functions (among other things).

New statutory guidance for local authorities in England, published on 4 December 2009, advises that monitoring and evaluation systems should be put in place and lettings outcomes published so that people can see that the allocation scheme is being complied with and is fair, and that the authority is meeting its duties under the equalities legislation.

Local Government: Empty Property

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties local authorities have taken into ownership in the last three years. [312964]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of empty properties that local authorities have taken into ownership is not held centrally. Since 1 February 2007, 27 Empty Dwelling Management Orders have been issued. EDMOs do not result in a change of ownership but pass the management of the properties to the local authority in order that they can be brought back into use.

Repossession Orders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England have been repossessed in each year since 1979. [310934]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to encourage home-based working in *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association social housing tenancies. [313089]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1511W, and the answer given to him on 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 484-85W.

Social Rented Housing: Unemployed

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of social housing *(a)* tenants and *(b)* households of working age are not in employment, education or training. [311524]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the proportion of social tenants not in employment, education or training are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the 2008 ONS Labour Force Survey.

Economic status of social tenants, England, 2008

			All social tenants
	economic status of tenant		
	In employment, education or training	*Not in employment, education or training*	*Total (percentage)*
All social tenants	35	65	100
Social tenants of working age	50	50	100
Social tenants with at least one household member of working age	48	52	100

Notes:
1 Excludes households where economic status unknown.
2 Working age is defined as 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

Sustainable Development

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he will publish the new guidance on sustainability and spatial strategy; and if he will make a statement. [313628]

Mr. Ian Austin: The policy statement on Regional Strategy along with the proposed new guidance on sustainability appraisal was published for consultation between 6 August and 30 October 2009. We are actively considering the 153 responses received and look to publish the final policy statement and guidance in mid February.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason his Department's due diligence information on *(a)* banks in which the Government has a shareholding or which the Government owns and *(b)* RBS assets guaranteed by the Government have not been made available to UK Financial Investments. [313261]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI) has been set up to manage the Government's investments in financial institutions at arm's length and on a commercial basis.

UKFI's objective is to dispose of the investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer, paying due regard to financial stability and promoting competition.

For the purpose of analysing detailed due diligence information to deliver the APS, the Treasury considered that advice from Treasury's legal and financial advisers was deemed sufficient and that it was not necessary or appropriate to consult UKFI on this information. Sharing such information with UKFI could have led them becoming insiders and could thus compromise their ability to manage or dispose of the shareholdings.

Banks: Iceland

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Icelandic Government regarding the repayment of debt to the Government for the compensation of depositors who held accounts with Icesave. [313619]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Banks: Pay

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Financial Investments advised (i) RBS and (ii) Lloyds Banking Group on the categories of employees to be (A) included in and (B) excluded from bonus pools. [313262]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's shareholdings in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group are managed on a commercial and arm's length basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability, and to act in a way that promotes competition.

UKFI have agreed deferral and clawback terms for 2009 bonuses for both banks, which have signed up to the FSA code and G20 agreements. No decisions have yet been taken on the quantum of bonus payments.

Departmental Correspondence

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his reply to the letter of 1 November 2009 sent to Lord Myners by Tim Bush. [313694]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No correspondence from Mr Bush has been located in the Treasury. I am grateful to the hon. Member for the copy his office have now provided, and a reply will be prepared as soon as possible.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310803]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury is committed to making operations as sustainable as possible. Detailed information on waste and recycling in Treasury buildings is published in HM Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 (HC 611).

Figures for food waste for the past three years for its buildings are shown in the following table.

(Tonnes)

	1 Horse Guards Road	*Rosebery Court*
2006-07	5	0
2007-08	5	0
2008-09	21	0

The catering contractor for 1 Horse Guards Road introduced a food waste recycling programme in March 2008 under which food waste is removed from the building and is transported to a biogas plant where it is subjected to an anaerobic digestion process. In addition, the process produces fertilizer and electricity as by-products.

Previously, volumes of food waste had been calculated using the industry standard of food produced but not used and was measured on the basis that each bag of food waste weighed around 3kg on average. When the food waste recycling programme was introduced in March 2008 for 1 HGR, the system changed from counting bags to physically weighing the waste before removing them from the site, and this explains the vastly increased figure from what was reported in earlier years.

The Rosebery Court office does not have on-site catering facilities.

Financial Services: EU Action

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of proposed EU regulations on derivatives on businesses in the corporate sector which depend on very long-term hedging practices to manage risk and uncertainty; and if he will make a statement. [313007]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In December, HM Treasury and FSA published a paper called 'Reforming OTC Derivative Markets, A UK Perspective', available at:

www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/other/reform_otc_derivatives.pdf

This paper sets out the UK's preliminary thinking on future regulation, both globally and in the EU, on derivatives issues, including the implications for corporates.

Government Departments: ICT

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has issued to other Government departments on budget control for Government ICT projects. [313351]

Mr. Byrne: OGC's best practice sets a framework for public sector project management which includes cost and budget management through the project lifecycle. in addition, OGC's project assurance tools, eg the OGC Gateway™ process, give visibility of cost control aspects of projects and recommendations are made as appropriate.

In addition, a major strand of the supply management initiative which was launched in 2006 is performance improvement via a two-way common assessment framework designed to address shortfalls in delivery and to deliver cash savings. Every six months, on a commercially confidential basis, departments review supplier performance on key ICT projects: one of the areas for review being 'delivery to cost parameters'.

National Insurance Contributions: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of the revenue from national insurance contributions for employers is attributable to local government employers. [313085]

Mr. Timms: The revenue from national insurance contributions for local Government employers was £4.7 billion in the 2007-08 tax year; equivalent to 8.3 per cent. of the total revenue from national insurance contributions for employers.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the objectives are of the HM Revenue and Customs Policy Development Programme. [312145]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not have a Policy Development Programme.

HMRC's Policy Delivery Programme is a portfolio of projects which implement and deliver policy measures and legislation, including EU legislation, for the Department.

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313391]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all areas of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work. In Streatham people are benefiting from this investment. Over the second half of 2009, more than 900 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. The claimant count fell for two consecutive months in November and December and now stands 2 per cent. below its October level. At the end of 2009, claimant count unemployment is still 30 per cent. lower and long-term unemployment 85 per cent. lower than in May 1997.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the sum to accrue to the Exchequer from penalty charges and interest surcharges on unpaid tax from self-assessment tax returns for the 2008-09 tax year. [313448]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in the Government Equalities Office in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307101]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since its creation on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has awarded the following staff bonuses.

Financial year	*Number of bonuses*	*Total of bonuses (£)*
2007-08	25	37,787
2008-09	19	28,400
2009-10	67	58,850

The Government Equalities does not differentiate between in-year and year-end bonuses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will publish the modelling her Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned in relation to its consideration of the merits of (i) ending and (ii) changing the (A) attendance allowance and (B) disability living allowance scheme in the last five years. [307680]

Jonathan Shaw: We are developing our care and support proposals, based on the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together".

The impact assessment was published with the Green Paper and is available on the Big Care Debate website at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/the-green-paper-and-supporting-documents/

A copy of the impact assessment has been placed in the Library.

Cold Weather Payments

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each local authority area have received benefits through the Cold Weather Payment Scheme since 1 November 2009. [310785]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on the Cold Weather Payment scheme since 1 November 2009. [310786]

Helen Goodman: The total expenditure authorised for cold weather payments in Great Britain since 1 November 2009 up to Tuesday 12 January 2010 is estimated to be £261 million.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of pensioners who are eligible to receive cold weather payments in 2009-10. [313011]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 26 January 2010]*: The number of pensioner benefit units in Great Britain who are eligible to receive cold weather payments in 2009-10 if the temperature criterion is met is estimated to be 2.6 million.

A benefit unit can be either a single person or a couple. A benefit unit receives only one cold weather payment for a given week. The number of individual pensioners who are potentially helped by cold weather payments is about 3.3 million, taking account of couple households.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much press officers in her Department and its agencies claimed in reimbursable expenses in 2008-09. [311124]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions operates a single press office to support the work of the Department as well as agencies such as Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions, Disability and Carers' Service.

Press officers claimed £17,800.94 in reimbursable expenses in 2008-09.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in her Department in each year since 2003. [306463]

Jim Knight: The Department operates two pay-related employee reward schemes. They comprise end of year non-consolidated performance pay and in-year special awards.

End of year non-consolidated performance pay

DWP employees below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual non-consolidated performance payment if they attain a "top", "higher" or "majority" rating under the annual performance and development system. The actual payment awarded is determined by the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service, end of year non-consolidated performance pay is determined by the relevant departmental pay committee, in line with recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The total payments made in respect the years since 2003 are as follows:

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Work force*
2002-03	30.82	140,380
2003-04	25.29	139,999
2004-05	36.61	141,476
2005-06	42.82	130,623
2006-07	40.68	125,712
2007-08	36.61	118,909
2008-09	23.32	114,225
2009-10	21.81	112,227

The average payments in the years between 2002-03 and 2009-10 were between £199.48 and £350.39.

Special awards

Individuals may be awarded a special award either as cash or in the form of retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year to recognise exceptional achievements beyond what would normally be expected.

Figures for retail vouchers are available from 2007 when they were introduced to the Department. Figures for cash payments are not available prior to 2007-08.

The total amount paid in awards was as follows:

Cash payments

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Average for those receiving a payment (£)*
2007-08	2.70	240
2008-09	3.04	208
2009-10 (April to August 2009)	0.91	179

Voucher payments

Financial year	*Total cost (£ million)*	*Value*
2007-08	1.77	Between £25 and £50
2008-09	2.02	Between £25 and £50
2009-10 (April to August 2009)	0.95	Between £25 and £50

In addition to individual performance bonus payments, DWP also paid team bonuses to selected units within the Department between the period 2002 and 2005. The total payments made were as follows.

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Average for those receiving a payment (£)*
2002-03	7.8	557.14
2003-04	29.4	735.00
2004-05	3.3	293.33

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for (i) her Department's and (ii) its agencies' staff in 2009-10. [307026]

Jim Knight: The Department operates two pay-related employee reward schemes. They comprise end of year non-consolidated performance pay and in-year special awards.

End of Year Non-consolidated Performance Pay

DWP employees below the Senior Civil Service are eligible for an annual individual non-consolidated performance payment if they attain a "top", "higher" or "majority" rating under the annual performance and development system. The actual payment awarded is determined by the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the Senior Civil Service, end of year non-consolidated performance pay is determined by the relevant Departmental Pay Committee, in line with recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Performance awards are payable in July and are attributable to performance in the previous financial year. In the 2009-10 financial year £21.81 million was paid in July 2009 for performance in the previous year. Of this £4.66 million was paid to employees in DWP

Corporate and Shared Services, £13.98 million to those in Jobcentre Plus, and £3.17 million to those in the Pension, Disability and Carers Service. The average payment received was £199.48.

Special Awards

Individuals may be awarded a special award either as cash or in the form of retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year, to recognise exceptional achievements beyond what would normally be expected.

Up to 0.25 per cent of the overall departmental staff budget is available to fund Special Awards and in 2009-10 this equates to £7.28 million of which £5.97 million is available to the Department's agencies and £1.31 million to the rest of the Department.

For the period April to August 2009, the number of Special Awards made was 22,997, at a cost of £1.86 million. Departmental headcount at August 2009 was 118,356.

The average payment received was £80.88.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what office facilities her Department provides for the exclusive use of each trade union recognised by it; and what the notional value of such provision was in the latest period for which information is available. [312367]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave to his question on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 125W.

The information provided within the answer is still the current position. We are unable to provide a notional value of the facilities used because the information is not available.

Disability Living Allowance: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the West Yorkshire area were claiming disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [306998]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Disability living allowance—cases in payment for the Government office region of Yorkshire and the Humber by parliamentary constituency

May each year

Yorkshire and the Humber	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Barnsley Central	6,430	6,590	6,730	6,840	7,080
Barnsley East and Mexborough	8,450	8,490	8,590	8,670	8,880
Barnsley West and Penistone	5,260	5,340	5,440	5,540	5,770
Batley and Spen	4,410	4,530	4,640	4,690	4,820
Beverley and Holderness	4,400	4,520	4,660	4,840	4,940
Bradford North	5,510	5,560	5,680	5,820	5,940
Bradford South	5,600	5,790	5,920	6,030	6,190
Bradford West	6,390	6,450	6,570	6,700	6,980
Brigg and Goole	3,680	3,770	3,850	4,020	4,100
Calder Valley	3,860	3,980	4,090	4,210	4,400
City of York	3,330	3,430	3,540	3,600	3,720
Cleethorpes	4,070	4,180	4,290	4,400	4,580
Colne Valley	4,250	4,340	4,480	4,640	4,770
Dewsbury	4,880	5,030	5,150	5,280	5,440
Doncaster Central	5,400	5,470	5,580	5,730	5,910
Doncaster North	6,050	6,120	6,280	6,360	6,570
Don Valley	5,810	5,890	6,040	6,190	6,280
East Yorkshire	5,220	5,300	5,440	5,560	5,670
Elmet	3,770	3,800	3,940	4,040	4,160
Great Grimsby	4,390	4,500	4,610	4,770	4,990
Halifax	4,850	5,000	5,050	5,140	5,290
Haltemprice and Howden	2,500	2,560	2,670	2,780	2,850
Harrogate and Knaresborough	2,800	2,840	2,880	2,960	3,050
Hemsworth	7,960	8,070	8,190	8,260	8,400
Huddersfield	5,380	5,490	5,610	5,740	5,910
Keighley	3,680	3,770	3,870	3,970	4,130
Kingston upon Hull East	5,530	5,660	5,830	5,900	5,990
Kingston upon Hull North	5,470	5,540	5,650	5,730	5,880
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	5,120	5,220	5,360	5,410	5,700
Leeds Central	5,900	5,960	6,050	6,160	6,330
Leeds East	4,690	4,760	4,820	4,830	4,980
Leeds North East	3,630	3,660	3,740	3,790	3,910
Leeds North West	2,720	2,750	2,820	2,920	3,000
Leeds West	4,200	4,340	4,450	4,580	4,790
Morley and Rothwell	4,750	4,820	4,950	5,120	5,330
Normanton	4,270	4,360	4,470	4,570	4,710
Pontefract and Castleford	6,420	6,520	6,600	6,700	6,910
Pudsey	3,050	3,140	3,290	3,350	3,490
Richmond Yorks	2,760	2,860	2,980	3,120	3,180
Rother Valley	5,840	5,930	6,050	6,190	6,390
Rotherham	6,040	6,150	6,320	6,460	6,580
Ryedale	3,050	3,110	3,220	3,290	3,370
Scarborough and Whitby	5,210	5,360	5,560	5,680	5,880
Scunthorpe	4,370	4,500	4,620	4,740	4,800
Selby	2,900	2,960	3,090	3,240	3,380
Sheffield Attercliffe	5,480	5,490	5,600	5,680	5,930
Sheffield Brightside	6,230	6,380	6,550	6,630	6,860
Sheffield Central	5,710	5,760	5,870	5,980	6,190

Disability living allowance—cases in payment for the Government office region of Yorkshire and the Humber by parliamentary constituency

					May each year
Yorkshire and the Humber	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Sheffield Hallam	1,750	1,800	1,840	1,890	1,930
Sheffield Heeley	5,000	5,130	5,250	5,410	5,550
Sheffield Hillsborough	4,690	4,770	4,880	5,020	5,160
Shipley	3,540	3,620	3,690	3,770	3,860
Skipton and Ripon	2,840	2,900	3,000	3,110	3,200
Vale of York	2,500	2,540	2,630	2,720	2,850
Wakefield	5,260	5,380	5,530	5,580	5,750
Wentworth	6,530	6,640	6,790	6,820	6,980
Total	263,790	268,840	275,310	281,170	289,690

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate; Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether benefits are paid to a claimant appealing against a decision not to be moved from the work category to the support employment allowance category. [312727]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: Employment and support allowance continues to be paid to customers who are in the work related activity group pending the outcome of an appeal against a decision not to award the support component of the benefit.

Employment and support allowance can also be paid pending the outcome of an appeal where a decision has been made that the customer does not have limited capability for work following a work capability assessment.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of employment and support allowance claimants scored enough points to be considered unable to work in 2009. [313318]

Jonathan Shaw: If an employment and support allowance claimant completes assessment they are placed in one of three groups:

> Support group (for those with severe disabilities)—they receive a higher rate of benefit entitlement overall and exemption from mandatory involvement with Pathways to Work.
>
> Work related activity group—they receive higher rate of benefit than those on jobseeker's allowance and are mandated to engage with Pathways to Work.
>
> Fit for work—the employment and support allowance claim should cease although individuals can ask for a reconsideration or appeal if they disagree with the decision.

People in the support group are not assessed on the basis of points scored but on the basis of the nature and severity of their condition. Most people in the work related activity group claim employment and support allowance on the basis of scoring enough points against an assessment of their functional capability.

The latest data on the assessment of employment and support allowance claimants was published on 19 January 2010 and can be found:

> http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

This shows that 12 per cent. of employment and support allowance claims are placed in the work related activity group (or 23 per cent. of those claims which complete assessment). Note that 9 per cent. of people in the work related activity group are placed there on the basis of their condition (e.g. uncontrollable diseases) or their work capability assessment is deferred (e.g. hospital in-patients) rather than points scored.

Employment and Support Allowance: Mentally Ill

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of applicants for employment and support allowance with mental health problems were classified as *(a)* unfit to work and *(b)* fully fit to work in 2009. [313317]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Future Jobs Fund

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobs created under the Future Jobs Fund scheme have been taken up by 18 to 24 year-olds; and if she will make a statement. [312705]

Jim Knight: Information on Future Jobs Fund starts is not currently available but will be made available from spring 2010 through a statistical release that is planned to cover the whole of the Young Persons Guarantee. This is normal practice for DWP employment programmes and it allows time for input from the UK Statistics Authority and for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Future Jobs Fund jobs have been taken up by those leaving jobseeker's allowance; and if she will make a statement. [312872]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: Information on Future Jobs Fund starts is not currently available but will be made available from spring 2010 through a statistical release that is planned to cover the whole of the Young Persons Guarantee. This is normal practice for DWP employment programmes and it allows time for input from the UK Statistics Authority and for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309064]

Jim Knight: All official travel within the Department is carried out in accordance with the requirements of both the Civil Service Management Code:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/doc/CSMC_April_08.doc

and Departmental Business Travel Policy, which enable staff to stay overnight in hotel accommodation when travelling on detached duty for business purpose.

The following room nights were booked by DWP staff in the Department in each full financial year since 2007-08.

	Room nights
2007-08	
Total DWP	139,365
Disability and Carers Service	3,399
Corporate Services/ Headquarters	40,628
Child Support Agency	27,073
The Pension Service	24,218
Jobcentre Plus	44,047
2008-09	
Total DWP	143,923
Disability and Carers Service	n/a
Corporate Services/ Headquarters	49,458
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	25,379
Pension, Disability and Carers Service	21,979
Jobcentre Plus	47,107

The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service merged into a single Agency in April 2008. The figures in the table need to be seen in the context of the Department's total staffing of over 100,000. The Department's booking agent is remunerated on a commission share basis by the hotels with whom it books accommodation and the Department itself pays no booking fees.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report,* columns 848-9W, on Jobcentre Plus: telephone services, what progress has been made in her Department's discussions with the Telephone Helplines Association and mobile telephone companies; what assessment she has made of the merits of automated textback helplines; for what reasons her Department does not instruct its operators to offer callbacks; and if she will make a statement. [308317]

Jim Knight: I am very pleased to be able to report that the Department for Work and Pensions has now signed an agreement with six of the largest mobile operators to provide free calls from mobiles to our 0800 claims lines.

The agreement will be phased in during January and, by the end of January, all customers who use Vodafone; T-Mobile; 02; Orange; Virgin Mobile and Tesco Mobile to call our 0800 claims lines will no longer be charged by their service provider. We expect the remaining 24 or so mobile operators to join the agreement meaning that by April 2010 all calls from mobiles to our 0800 claims lines should be free to the caller.

With this agreement we have achieved a significant step towards making a reality of our policy of free calls to our 0800 claims lines for all our customers.

The Department is currently exploring the use of SMS text messaging as a means of communicating with customers. As part of that work we will consider whether text messaging is a suitable way of customers requesting a call-back. In the meantime, where a customer calling either our 0800 or 0845 services asks us, or raises concerns over the cost of the call, we will offer to call them back.

Maternity and Paternity Pay

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has made an estimate of her Department's expenditure on statutory *(a)* maternity and *(b)* paternity pay for people from each income quintile in each year since 1997. [313568]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* No.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when she expects to reply to the letter dated 23 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. P. McCarty; [310494]

(2) when she plans to reply to the letter dated 23 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. P McCarty. [311508]

Jim Knight: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 15 January 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when she expects to reply to the letter dated 30 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. S. Winter; [310496]

(2) when she plans to reply to the letter dated 30 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs Alice Winter. [311510]

Jim Knight: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 15 January 2010.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of her Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308521]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of employees of the Department and its agencies who have been convicted of criminal offences and the type of offence in each year since 1997 is set out in the following table.

The data is provided to the Department by the Home Office and is not available prior to 2006.

	Number of convictions by year (1 January to 31 December)			
Agency	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Jobcentre Plus	5	1	10	26
Corporate Centre	1	2	2	2
Child Support Agency	0	1	7	0
Pension, Disability and Carers Service	2	0	1	1
Total	8	4	20	29

2006

	Number of convictions by Agency			
Nature of Offence	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Corporate Centre*	*Child Support Agency*	*Pension, Disability and Carers Service*
Theft-Shoplifting	1	—	—	—
Act of outraging public decency	1	—	—	—
Possession of a Class A substance	1	—	—	—
Carried in a vehicle taken without consent	1	—	—	—
Theft – Burglary	—	—	—	1
Theft	—	—	—	1
Harassment		1	—	—
Escaping lawful custody	1	—	—	—

2007

	Number of convictions by Agency			
Nature of Offence	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Corporate Centre*	*Child Support Agency*	*Pension, Disability and Carers Service*
Failing to stop after an accident	1	—	—	—
Driving without insurance	—	1	—	—
Driving whilst disqualified	—	1	—	—
Theft	—		1	—

2008

	Number of convictions by Agency			
Nature of offence	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Corporate Centre*	*Child Support Agency*	*Pension, Disability and Carers Service*
Handling stolen goods	1	—	—	—
Harassment	1	—	—	—
Failing to provide a specimen of breath			1	
Assault – Actual bodily harm	2	—	—	—
Common assault	1	—	1	—
Forgery	—	—	2	—
Perjury by witness	—	—	1	—
Possession of Class A substance	1	—	—	—
Drink driving	3	2	—	—
Theft	—	—	1	—
Drunk and disorderly	1	—	—	—
Battery	—	—	1	—
Criminal damage	—	—	—	1

2009

	Number of convictions by Agency		
Nature of offence	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Corporate Centre*	*Pension, Disability and Carers Service*
Sexual offences against a minor	1	—	—
Battery	2	—	—
Theft – Shoplifting	1	—	—
Making off without paying	1	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	—	—	1
Possessing intoxicating liquor in a sports ground	1	—	—
Fraud	2	—	—
Common assault	1	—	—
Drink driving	8	2	—
Driving without insurance	1	—	—
Threatening behaviour	3	—	—
Drug driving	1	—	—
Public indecency	1	—	—
Criminal damage	1	—	—
Possession of a Class B substance	1	—	—
Unknown – no offence stated	1	—	—

The Child Support Agency ceased to be an Agency of the Department from 1 November 2008.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department are planning to attend the winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate she has made of the cost of such attendance. [310848]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the “Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code” respectively.

Pathways to Work: Autism

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to ensure Pathways to Work providers support people with autism. [310625]

Jonathan Shaw: Pathways is a flexible menu of different support options tailored to the needs of each customer. This can include work-focused interviews, help finding and applying for jobs, Condition Management Programmes, training and extra money to boost in-work income. Customers with autism receive a service which is tailored to them as Pathways is available to customers across the full range of health conditions and disabilities.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were in a household in receipt of *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* winter fuel allowance in Ashford constituency in 2008-09. [313507]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is detailed in the following tables:

Recipients of pension credit in Ashford constituency

May each year	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
2008	4,120	5,150
2009	4,160	5,240

Notes:
1. Numbers rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis—household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a partner and beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.
3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Recipients of winter fuel payments in Ashford constituency

	Household recipients	*Individual beneficiaries*
Winter 2008-09[1]	17,180	24,310

[1] The last year for which information is available.

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Braintree constituency are in receipt of incapacity benefit; and how many of these have been in receipt of incapacity benefit for more than 12 months. [312076]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 January 2010]*: The available information is in the following table.

Total number in receipt of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and the number in receipt for more than one year, as at May 2009

	Total	*Duration over one year*
England	1,925,320	1,791,510
Essex local authorities	39,440	36,630
Braintree constituency	3,030	2,800

Notes:
1. Data rounded to the nearest ten; totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Data does not include claimants of employment and support allowance or income support on the grounds of incapacity.

Source:
Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Social Security Benefits: Eligibility

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy to remove the benefits eligibility criterion that requires terminal illness to only be taken into account if it is terminal within a six month period. [312483]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2010]*: The benefits eligibility criterion acknowledge that it is unreasonable to expect individuals who are in the last stages of a progressive disease and who are reasonably expected to die within six months to serve the normal qualifying periods before receiving benefit assistance. There are no plans to change the eligibility criterion.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the net effect on expenditure from the public purse of the reclassification of benefits claimants as a result of ATOS Medical assessments *(a)* since the start of the ATOS Medical contract and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [311193]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places have been created in Houghton and Washington East constituency since 2000. [313068]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of child care places is not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Extracurricular Activities: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* out-of-school and *(b)* holiday play schemes were created in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last three years. [312191]

Dawn Primarolo: Ofsted have collected data on the number of registered child care providers on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Information on the number of out-of-school schemes is unavailable as this data is not collected for parliamentary constituencies. Ofsted do not collect data on the number of holiday play schemes and so this information is also unavailable.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the Carbon Reduction Commitment User Guide on his Department's website has not been updated to reflect changes made since the publication of the Government's responses to the consultation on the draft order to implement the commitment in October 2009. [311635]

Joan Ruddock: The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme User Guide has been updated and was placed on our website on 19 January 2010. The guide has been amended to reflect both policy changes set out in the Government Response to the CRC consultation published on 7 October and the legal detail of the final draft order to implement the CRC which we also laid in Parliament on 19 January 2010.

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on bottled drinking water since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [313183]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Energy and Climate Change has spent nothing on bottled drinking water.

Departmental Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties his Department owns; and what recent estimate he has made of the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313796]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not own any properties.

Departmental Internet

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department provides to its employees on involvement in online social media in an official capacity. [311634]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Energy and Climate Change provides the following guidance to its employees based on Cabinet Office guidelines. The guidance is available to all staff on the Department's intranet.

> "The Civil Service Code still applies when communicating online, whether through a blog, a discussion forum, leaving comments on videos or photos, or using social media channels such as Twitter. If your contribution is based on knowledge you have because you work at DECC, carefully consider whether you would be compromised if your posting was picked up by a journalist.
>
> The main principles are:
>
> Be credible: Be accurate, fair, thorough and transparent.
>
> Be consistent: Encourage constructive criticism and deliberation. Be cordial, honest and professional at all times.
>
> Be responsive: When you gain insight, share it where appropriate.
>
> Be integrated: Wherever possible, align online participation with other offline communications.
>
> Be a civil servant: Remember that you are an ambassador for your organisation. Wherever possible, disclose your position as a representative of your department or agency.
>
> You should:
>
> Disclose your position as a representative of your department or agency unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as a potential threat to personal security. Never give out personal details like home address and phone numbers.
>
> Always remember that participation online results in your comments being permanently available and open to being republished in other media. Stay within the legal framework and be aware that libel, defamation, copyright and data protection laws apply. This means that you should not disclose information, make commitments or engage in activities on behalf of Government unless you are authorised to do so. This authority may already be delegated or may be explicitly granted depending on your organisation.
>
> Also be aware that this may attract media interest in you as an individual, so proceed with care whether you are participating in an official or a personal capacity. If you have any doubts, take advice from your line manager."

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1045-8W, on departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by each website listed in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2009-10 to date. [311919]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 19 January 2010]*: The unique visitors and page impressions for the last three years and 2009-10 to date are provided in the following table where the data is available.

	Financial year			
Website	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
www.decc.gov.uk				
Unique visits	—	—	37,230	423,803
Page impressions	—	—	286.629	3,123,031
http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html				
Unique visits	—	—	588,806	772,923
Page impressions	—	—	2,165.618	2,721,070

	Financial year			
Website	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/				
Unique visits	—	—	—	30,126
Page impressions	—	—	—	149,424
www.sedbuk.com (on a calendar year basis)				
Unique visits	158,054	196,833	218,115	235,678
Page impressions	1,826,183	2,562,988	2,775,346	3,098225
www.Hfccat-demo.org				
Unique visits	54,372	64,572	91,601	64,778
Page impressions	10,928	18,340	22,466	18,874
www.corwm.org.uk				
Unique visits	—	—	9,003	7,820
Page impressions	—	—	44,908	30,738
www.og.decc.gov.uk				
Unique visits	—	—	—	71,500
Page impressions	—	—	—	235,700
https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/help.htm				
Unique visits	—	—	—	2,020
Page impressions	—	—	—	4,010
www.ensg.gov.uk				
Page impressions	—	—	83,648	97,000
www.planningrenewables.org.uk				
Unique visits	—	—	14,413	7,609
Page impressions	—	—	93,926	41,521
www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk				
Page impressions	—	74,027	39,1689	322216
www.ukrenewables.com				
Unique visits (note 2008-09 figures available date from 8 February 2009 to 31 March 2009)	—	—	2110	9076
Page impressions (note 2008-09 figures available date from 8 February 2009 to 31 March 2009)	—	—	8089	39,852
www.decc.gov.uk/offsetting				
Unique visits	—	—	1,626	6,713
Page impressions	—	—	19,306	67,114
www.actoncopenhagen.gov.uk				
Unique visits	—	—	—	185,020
Page impressions	—	—	—	884,505

[1] To date.

Insulation: Houseboats

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department provides to owners of residential craft in respect of insulation and heating efficiency where the craft is used as a main residence. [313014]

Joan Ruddock: The opportunities to reduce the carbon emissions and heating bills of residential craft homes are limited due to the inherent lack of scope for key energy efficiency measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation. Moreover, under the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT), energy suppliers are only obliged to promote energy saving measures to residences connected directly to main energy networks.

However, owners of residential craft are able to take advantage of CERT subsidies if purchasing certain DIY materials and energy saving technologies. Items such as insulation panels and low energy light bulbs frequently receive heavy subsidies under CERT in national retail outlets and are available at discounted rates to all consumers.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the National Policy Statement on nuclear energy will include provisions on policy on disposal sites for nuclear waste. [311807]

Mr. [illegible]idney: The policy on the disposal for higher activity radioactive wastes is set out in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) White Paper (June 2008).

The current consultation on the Nuclear National Policy Statement does not include the geological disposal facility development. The MRWS White Paper makes clear that no decision on whether geological disposal will be considered by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) has yet been made. However, the Government are currently inclined to look towards applying the new planning system and we consider that a geological disposal facility is likely to be regarded as a nationally significant infrastructure project. Should the

Government decide in future that radioactive waste should be dealt with by the IPC, the Government would set out the national policy in a National Policy Statement, which would be finalised following an appraisal of sustainability, public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny.

Tidal Power

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential for the generation of electricity from tidal power off the south coast of England. [313409]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 26 January 2010]*: The Government commissioned the updating of the UK Marine Renewable Energy Resources Atlas

http://www.renewables-atlas.info/

in 2007. The charts in the Atlas indicate the distribution of potential resource for the future deployment of renewable energy technologies—wind, wave and tidal. The Atlas represents the most detailed regional description of potential marine energy resources in UK waters completed to date at a national scale, and will be used to help guide policy and planning decisions for future site leasing rounds.

We also commissioned in 2009, a screening study for marine energy development in English and Welsh Waters and we will be considering the findings of the report before deciding on whether to progress with a strategic environmental assessment for English and Welsh waters.

Analysis of the data suggests there are pockets of potential for generating energy from tidal resource, in particular off the Isle of Wight and the Dorset coast, but these are at a level significantly lower than elsewhere in the UK. At present the South coast is not viewed by the commercial sector as a prime area for tidal resource but as technologies develop we may see devices which are well suited to the lower velocity of tidal flow available from the region.

Uranium: Exports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much reprocessed uranium in *(a)* oxide and *(b)* uranium hexafluoride (UF6) has been exported to each destination since January 2009; for what purpose in each case; who the owner is of each consignment; and what transport route was used for each consignment. [312699]

Mr. Kidney: Since January 2009 there has been only one export of reprocessed uranium from the UK. In compliance with all appropriate transport regulations, 107.5 tonnes of uranium in the form of uranium trioxide was exported from Sellafield to Russia on behalf of two existing reprocessing customers in Germany and the Netherlands. The uranium was transported by rail from Sellafield to Hull and then by ship to Russia. The uranium will be processed for manufacture into nuclear fuel.

The export licences for this shipment were approved following the receipt of satisfactory end-user undertakings from the consignee. The details of the specific customers involved is commercially confidential information, contained in appropriate contractual documents.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related *(a)* deaths and *(b)* hospital admissions there have been in each year since 1997. [313640]

Gillian Merron: Information on alcohol admissions is available at:

www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/download.htm

Information on alcohol related death is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14496

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 18 were admitted to hospital with an *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis related to alcohol in each strategic health authority in each of the last three years. [312632]

Gillian Merron: The number of admissions of patients under the age of 18 with a primary or secondary alcohol-related condition by strategic health authority of residence is presented in the following table:

Number of admissions of patients aged under 18 with an alcohol-related condition by strategic health authority of residence

	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
Strategic health authority	*Total*	*Primary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Secondary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Total*	*Primary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Secondary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Total*	*Primary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Secondary alcohol-related diagnosis*
North East	1,126	382	744	1,081	328	753	961	265	696
North West	3,093	1,388	1705	2,933	1,215	1718	2,548	1,049	1,499
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,523	591	932	1,513	529	985	1,374	454	920
East Midlands	990	362	629	1,176	348	827	1,117	304	813
West Midlands	1,723	763	960	1,631	729	902	1,397	607	790
East of England	1,032	376	656	1,073	337	736	880	266	614
London	1,307	569	738	1,440	675	765	1,224	559	665
South East Coast	1,049	448	601	1,068	458	610	967	373	593
South Central	876	370	506	890	349	541	849	320	529
South West	1,572	574	998	1,500	532	967	1,380	475	906

Number of admissions of patients aged under 18 with an alcohol-related condition by strategic health authority of residence

	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
Strategic health authority	*Total*	*Primary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Secondary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Total*	*Primary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Secondary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Total*	*Primary alcohol-related diagnosis*	*Secondary alcohol-related diagnosis*
Unknown/no fixed abode	174	81	92	196	81	115	135	65	70
England	14,465	5,904	8,561	14,501	5,582	8,919	12,832	4,736	8,096

Notes:

Includes activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Alcohol-related conditions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis. These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Secondary diagnosis

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Assignment of episodes to years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Asthma: Drugs

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by each primary care trust in the provision of inhalers which do not contain chlorofluorocarbons. [313530]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. However the vast majority of inhalers containing chlorofluorocarbons have now been phased out and those remaining are expected to be discontinued during 2010.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has made to encourage general practitioners to implement the 2008 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on inhaled corticosteroids for the treatment of chronic asthma. [313560]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently preparing good practice guidelines for children and adults with asthma, for use by general practitioners and other health care professionals, that will make reference to existing National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the management and treatment of asthma.

Asthma: Health Services

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that all asthma patients have personal asthma action plans. [313531]

Ann Keen: The Department has a commitment to ensure the national health service offers everyone with a long-term condition a care plan by the end of 2010. The NHS Next Stage Review 'High Quality Care for All' re-states this commitment. The Department has provided a range of support for implementing personalised care plans, including: publishing guidance for NHS commissioners on what care planning and self-care is (January 2009); support for NHS work force, through publishing an information booklet (April 2009); and publication of a Primary Care Service Specification (November 2009) to support commissioning from primary care providers.

The Department is currently preparing good practice guidelines for children and adults with asthma that will reinforce the value of personal asthma action plans and continue to encourage clinicians to ensure that every patient has one tailored to their needs. This is entirely consistent with the recommendation that all patients with long-term conditions should have a personalised care plan by the end of 2010.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what preparations his Department has made for managing the symptoms of asthma patients who contract *(a)* swine influenza and *(b)* seasonal influenza during the winter. [313532]

Ann Keen: Every year people of all ages, including those with asthma, are eligible for vaccination against seasonal influenza, and can have this at their general practitioner's (GP's) surgery. This year all people with asthma should also have been contacted by their GP's surgery in order to receive a vaccination against swine influenza. This measure was introduced to ensure that people with asthma were protected from influenza of both kinds.

GPs were advised by the Royal College of General Practitioners that people with asthma who contracted swine influenza may have additional respiratory difficulties. GPs were advised to follow the clinical guidelines for management of asthma in the event that a patient's asthma control worsened as a result of contracting swine influenza, in addition to prescribing antiviral therapy such as Tamiflu in order to shorten the course of swine influenza.

Blood: Donors

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have received blood components from 80 or more donors in each of the last five years. [313623]

Gillian Merron: This Information is not collected centrally.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on making myalgic encephalomyelitis a notifiable illness for the purposes of blood donation. [313595]

Ann Keen: The Department has received 31 representations on making myalgic encephalomyelitis a notifiable illness in the last six months. There have also been a number of representations on this subject received by the Chief Medical Officer.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to *(a)* commission and *(b)* evaluate research on the possible health effects of receiving blood donated by a person with myalgic encephalomyelitis. [313596]

Ann Keen: The Department has no current plans to directly commission research on this issue. However, the Medical research Council has designated myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome a priority research area, and will fund proposals of sufficient quality. The UK Blood Services together with the Health Protection Agency are undertaking a study of the prevalence of a rodent virus recently linked to myalgic encephomyelitis, which will be used to inform a risk assessment.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to test patients for xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related illnesses. [313607]

Ann Keen: There are currently no plans to test patients for xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related virus.

CJD

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many potential vCJD treatments are being tested in the UK; and what stage each trial has reached. [313609]

Gillian Merron: There is no proven therapy for patients with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), nor are there any clinical trials for vCJD treatments in progress in the United Kingdom.

Some current UK vCJD patients are being treated with Pentosan Polysulphate, which may extend life, on an individual basis.

The Department is currently providing funding for a six-year multi-million pound collaboration between the MRC Prion Unit and GlaxoSmithKline with the objective of developing an effective drug for human prion infection and disease. In addition the National Prion Monitoring Cohort study, also funded by the Department at the MRC Prion Unit, has as an objective to monitor use of anti-prion agents if and when used.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of vCJD have been diagnosed in each of the last 10 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each genotype. [313610]

Gillian Merron: The National Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Surveillance Unit:

http://www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/

reports the number of cases diagnosed as:

	Diagnosis
2000	27
2001	25

	Diagnosis
2002	16
2003	16
2004	8
2005	6
2006	6
2007	1
2008	1
2009	3
2010	0
Total	109

All cases of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) where the genotype is known are MM at codon 129 of the PrP gene.

There has been one case of possible vCJD reported in a patient with MV genotype at codon 129 of the PrP gene. This patient did not fulfil the probable clinical case definition for vCJD as set by the World Health Organization, and is therefore not included in the figures for definite or probable vCJD.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have contracted vCJD from contaminated blood via blood transfusion in each of the last five years; how many such people contracted vCJD from non-leucodepleted blood; and if he will make a statement. [314084]

Gillian Merron: None.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence: Finance

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of the finance function for *(a)* the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence and *(b)* the NHS Litigation Authority referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if he will make a statement. [312680]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The costs of these functions are currently under review as part of the Operational Efficiency programme.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313226]

Phil Hope: In common with executive agencies, and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) across central Government that have Crown status, the Department's agencies and NDPBs make most of their information available for free re-use under the PSI Click-Use Licence. Some information is contained in priced publications. Government trading funds, including the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for which Department's Ministers have responsibility, are able to charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs. This includes charging for the provision of information to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals.

Departmental Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total monetary value of Senior Civil Service (SCS) non-consolidated performance pay awards was in his Department in each of the last five years; how many and what proportion of SCS staff in each pay band received awards in each year; and how much in each award category was received by staff in each pay band each year. [300382]

Phil Hope: Non-consolidated performance payments to senior civil servants are made under the terms set out in the Government's response to the recommendations of the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. A close and effective link between pay and performance and increased use of variable pay is a key element of the reward arrangements for the senior civil service. The total spend on non-consolidated performance pay in each of the last five years was given in the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 544-546W.

The numbers and proportions of senior civil servants receiving non-consolidated performance pay in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost as the Department's human resources information system does not hold the information in a format which can easily be translated into performance groups. For the last two years, the numbers of senior civil servants in receipt of end year non-consolidated performance pay was:

2008-09

	Number and percentage of staff in performance related pay category										
Grade	*1*		*2*		*3B*		*3NB*		*4*		
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*Total no.*
SCS 1	38	25	59	39	26	17	20	13	10	7	153
SCS 2	12	22	18	33	12	22	6	11	7	13	55
SCS 3	2	20	3	30	1	10	1	10	3	30	10
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	52	24	80	37	39	18	27	12	21	10	219

Note:
Groups 1, 2 and 3B received non-consolidated performance pay whereas groups 3NB and 4 did not.

2007-08

Grade	*Number and percentage of staff in performance related pay category*								
	1		*2*		*3B*		*4*		
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*Total no.*
SCS1	21	14	43	29	43	29	42	28	149
SCS2.	5	9	13	24	20	37	16	30	54
SCS3.	1	11	4	44	1	11	3	33	9
Total	27	13	60	28	64	30	61	29	212

Note:

Groups 1,2 and 3B received non-consolidated performance pay whereas group 4 did not.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in non-consolidated performance pay awards to officials in his Department in *(a)* each year between 1997 and 2004 and *(b)* 2008-09. [301022]

Phil Hope: A close and effective link between pay and performance and increased use of variable pay is a key element of the Department's reward strategy for all its staff.

The Department changed its payroll provider in 2003-04. Information on performance bonus payments prior to 2004-05 is available only from individual payslips. To retrieve information for years prior to 2004-05 would therefore involve disproportionate cost. Information for the years 2004-05 and 2008-09 was given in the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 544-546W.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2006. [306427]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 544-546W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307103]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 544-546W.

Eyesight: Testing

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in Salford constituency have received a free eye test in each of the last five years. [313562]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service sight tests for persons aged 60 and over, in England in 2008-09 is available in Table C1 of Annex C of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales, Year Ending 31 March 2009" report.

Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA), but is not available by parliamentary constituency. Information on the number of NHS sight tests by patient eligibility is available at a local level from 2007-08. At a national level, the number of NHS sight tests by patient eligibility is provided from 1996-97 to 2008-09. This is available in Table A1 of Annex C in the same report.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the information centre for health and social care:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity0809p2

Notes:

1. From 1 April 1999, eligibility for a free NHS sight test was extended to everyone aged 60 or over. Patients may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form.
2. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate. Patients may also have had more than one sight test in the specified time period.

Health Services: Houghton-le-Spring

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* the treatment of heart disease and *(b)* cancer care in Houghton and Washington East constituency in the last five years. [313067]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. Information on programme budgeting estimated expenditure of cancer and tumours and problems of circulation in the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) is shown in the following tables:

Sunderland Teaching PCT—programme budgeting estimated expenditure on own population on cancer and tumours

Financial year	*Estimated expenditure on own population on cancer care (£000)*
2004-05	19,730
2005-06	20,000
2006-07	23,126
2007-08	27,665
2008-09	34,886

Sunderland Teaching PCT—programme budgeting estimated expenditure on own population on problems of circulation category and subcategories

(£000)

Financial year	*Problems of circulation*	*Coronary heart disease*	*Cerebrovascular disease*	*Problems of rhythm*	*Problems of circulation (other)*
2004-05	37,608	—	—	—	—
2005-06	38,782	—	—	—	—
2006-07	37,614	12,884	5,462	2,438	16,830
2007-08	43,542	19,965	2,482	3,749	17,346
2008-09	43,224	16,352	5,796	2,577	18,499

Notes:

1. The programme budgeting data collection is complex, therefore expenditure figures are best estimates rather than precise measurements. Year on year comparisons are not straightforward due to annual refinements to the data collection methodology and changes to underlying data sources.

2. Subcategory level data were collected for the first time in 2006-07 and tend to be less robust than main category data as they are smaller categories and are therefore subject to greater variation.

3. Figures include expenditure across all sectors. Disease specific expenditure do not include expenditure on prevention or general practitioner expenditure.

Source:

Annual PCT programme budgeting financial returns

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he had with the Isle of Man government before he made his decision to terminate the reciprocal health agreement with the Isle of Man; whether he proposed any alternative financial terms for a continuing health agreement; what the reasons were for his decision; and if he will make a statement. [312835]

Gillian Merron: Ministers took the decision to end the current bilateral health care agreement with the Isle of Man on the basis that it did not represent value for money for the UK taxpayer and the wide availability of travel insurance. Discussions prior to the decision being made were at official level and the UK Government proposed no alternative financial mechanism.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the reciprocal agreement for medical cover with *(a)* the Channel Islands and *(b)* the Isle of Man was terminated; and if he will make a statement. [313527]

Gillian Merron: The Government ended its agreement with the Channel Islands on 31 March 2009, and is ending its agreement with the Isle of Man on 1 April 2010, as they do not represent value for money for the United Kingdom taxpayer and travel insurance is widely available. Tourists will continue to receive free accident and emergency treatment. However, they will now be expected to have insurance to cover the cost of other treatment.

Health Services: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time was for which a resident of Salford waited for *(a)* cancer treatment to start, *(b)* a heart by-pass operation, *(c)* a hip replacement and *(d)* a cataract removal from the time of first presenting to a GP in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [313326]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Table 1 shows the average (median) referral to treatment waiting times in weeks for admitted patients' resident within the Salford Primary Care Trust (PCT) area for the specialities listed.

Statistics on average waiting times between urgent referral and treatment for cancer are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment was introduced for all patients from December 2005. Statistics showing overall performance are published on a quarterly basis on the Department of Health website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/HospitalWaitingTimesandListStatistics/CancerWaitingTimes/index.htm

Table 2 shows the performance against this standard for the first and latest available period on this standard[1] (January - March 2006 and July - September 2009) for Salford residents and England overall.

Table 1

	Cardiothoracic Surgery		*Trauma and Orthopaedics*		*Opthalmology*	
	March 2008	*November 2009*	*March 2008*	*November 2009*	*March 2008*	*November 2009*
Salford PCT	5.9	5.5	8.2	10.0	10.6	10.9

Notes:

1. Figures on Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting times for admitted patients are presented on an adjusted basis (i.e. excluding periods for which the RTT waiting time clock was paused).

2. RTT admitted data were first collected on an adjusted basis in March 2008.

3. RTT waiting times have only been collected since March 2007, only down to treatment function (specialty) level, and only on an adjusted basis (i.e. excluding periods for which the RTT waiting time clock was paused) since March 2008.

Source:

Department of Health

Table 2

Percentage

Organisation	*2005-06 Quarter 3*	*2009-10 Quarter 2*
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	96.5	90.9
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	93.2	80.5
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	90.5	91.2
England[1]	91.1	85.7

[1] Note that due to a change in reporting methodology from 1 January 2009, figures for the two periods are not directly comparable.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* dentists there were in Salford in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest date for which information is available; and what assessment he has made of the standard of healthcare provided in Salford in each of those periods. [313327]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of nurses, doctors and dentists in national health service organisations in Salford in 1997 and 2008.

Regarding the assessment made of the standard of healthcare provided in Salford in each of these periods, the role of the Department is to secure adequate resources for funding the NHS and to set out a strategic framework for the NHS to work within. This allows decisions about local NHS services to be taken at a local level. Local NHS organisations are best placed to decide what staff they require to deliver services that best meet the needs of the local population.

NHS Hospital and Community Health services (HCHS) qualified nurses, medical and dental doctors and general practitioners (GP) and GP practice nurses.

As at 30 September each year

Numbers (headcount)

	1997				*2008*			
	HCHS qualified nurses	*HCHS medical and dental doctors*	*GPs*	*Practice nurses*	*HCHS qualified nurses*	*HCHS medical and dental doctors*	*GPs*	*Practice nurses*
Salford Primary Care Trust (PCT)[3,4]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	370	26	163	98
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	1,112	308	[2]—	[2]—	1,727	558	[2]—	[2]—
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust[5]	2,288	762	[2]—	[2]—	3,274	994	[2]—	[2]—
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust[6]	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	[2]—	3,264	1,242	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Denotes not available

[2] Denotes not applicable

[3] The PCT figure excludes data for medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals and have been excluded to avoid double counting.

[4] PCTs first came into existence in 2001, therefore data for 1997 is not available.

[5] Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in 2001 from a complete merger of Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust and Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust. Figures for 1997 are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.

[6] Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in 2002 by merging acute services from four other NHS Trusts. It is not possible to accurately map figures from the workforce census for part mergers, therefore 1997 data has not been provided.

Data quality:

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Hospital Wards

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many single rooms there are in each hospital which has opened since 2001; and how many there were in each hospital which they replaced. [312942]

Ann Keen: The Department collects data on the proportion of single rooms in new national health service hospitals opened since 2003 with a capital value of over £25 million. Information on these schemes is contained in the following table.

Information is not collected centrally on facilities that have been replaced as a result of new hospital schemes. All schemes with a capital value over £25 million have met the Department's 2001 guidance, which stated that the proportion of single rooms in new hospital developments should aim to be 50 per cent. but should not fall below 20 per cent. and must be higher than the facilities they are replacing. The policy and design guidance for the provision of single rooms in mental health accommodation is 100 per cent.

Each trust makes an informed choice regarding the appropriate percentage of single room provision based on practical considerations such as site restrictions, affordability as well as clinical and operational limitations.

New hospital facilities costing over £25 million opened since 2003-04

NHS organisation	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Scheme description*	*Proportion of beds in single rooms (percentage)*
2003-04			
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	30	Construction of new mental health facility at Fairmile.	[1]—
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	60	New District General Hospital	25
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	55	Redevelopment of Hexham General Hospital	75
South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	122	Site redevelopment and centralisation of acute hospital services at James Cook University Hospital	40

New hospital facilities costing over £25 million opened since 2003-04

NHS organisation	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Scheme description*	*Proportion of beds in single rooms (percentage)*
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	46	Neuro cardiac unit	20
Camden and Islington NHS Trust	26	Adult Mental Health Unit.	100
Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT)	29	The provision of a local care centre at Farnham Hospital	100
2004-05			
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	40	Maternity and gynaecology unit at Royal Preston Hospital	[1]—
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	25	A and E and Children's development at Royal Albert Edward Infirmary	18
Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	35	Mental health facilities at Woofield Road and St. Charles.	[1]—
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	57	Heart and Lung Centre	27
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	32	Total site redevelopment	[1]—
Barnet PCT	40	Edgware Community hospital development.	37
2005-06			
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	137	Redevelopment and rationalisation	36
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	422	Rationalisation of sites	34
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	36	Dangerous and severe personalities Unit at Broadmoor	100
Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust	50	Evelina Children's Hospital	[1]—
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	25	Renal Centre	22
Kirklees PCT	27	Provision of six Primary Care Centres	[2]—
Sandwell and W Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	26	Ambulatory Care Centre at City Hospital	[2]—
East London NHS Foundation Trust	34	Mental Health unit in Tower Hamlets	[1]—
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	31	South West Cardiothoracic Unit Centre	100
The Cardiothoracic Centre Liverpool NHS Trust	49	Cardiac Centre in Liverpool	43
Wandsworth PCT	75	Redevelopment of Queen Mary's Roehampton. Including specialist rehabilitation and amputee services.	59
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	69	Modernisation of Central Middlesex Hospital	33
2006-07			
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre NHS Trust	45	Cardiac Centre	40
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	47	Partial redevelopment of Stoke Mandeville Hospital	30
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	32	Reprovision of Mental Health services at St. George's Hospital Morpeth	100
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	30	Burnley Hospital development—Phase V	32
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	83	Redevelopment of Mental Health facilities, community care services and crisis homes	100
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	110	Closure of Blackburn Royal Infirmary and expansion of Queens Park hospital	31
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	55	Reprovision of Acute Services from St. Andrews to Newham General Hospital	39
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	379	New District General Hospital at Walsgrave	30
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	53	Cardiac Centre	50
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	28	Danetre Community Hospital in Daventry	37
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	32	Redevelopment of Acute Hospital services	55
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	72	Redevelopment of University Hospital including the separation of elective and emergency procedures	21
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	238	Rationalisation of two sites onto one adjacent to the existing Oldchurch hospital in Romford	20
Hampshire PCT	36	Redevelopment of Lymington Hospital	50
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	134	Reprovision of specialist services from the Radcliffe Infirmary to a new build on the John Radcliffe Hospital site	65
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	37	Orthopaedics/medicine redevelopment	33
2007-08			
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	35	New Hadfield Wing to replace Victorian Vickers wards	50
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Trust	76	Elective Care Centre, Genetics and Diabetes at Addenbrookes	38
Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust	36	Relocation of Royal Alexandra Hospital for sick Children	46
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	27	Women's enhanced medium secure services	100
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	59	Essex Heart and Lung Centre	[1]—
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	33	Redevelopment of Kingston Hospital	23

New hospital facilities costing over £25 million opened since 2003-04

NHS organisation	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Scheme description*	*Proportion of beds in single rooms (percentage)*
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	265	Regional Oncology and Cancer centre at St James University Hospital.	42
2008-09			
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	299	Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital Services in Newcastle. Renal and Elderly services at Freeman Hospital. Relocation of Northern Centre for Cancer to Freeman. Redevelopment of Royal Victoria Infirmary	56
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	67	Reconfiguration of Cancer facilities	52
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	129	Integrated Cancer Centre	50
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	55	Maternity and oncology unit	50
South West Essex Teaching PCT	30	Reprovision of Brentwood Community Hospital	32
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	40	Acute Accident Unit	25
St. Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (St Helen's Diagnostic and Treatment Unit opened October 2008; Whiston Hospital due to open April 2010)	338	Development of St Helen's Hospital (Diagnostic and Treatment Unit) and Whiston Hospital (Acute hospital services)	50
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	32	Garrett Anderson Centre—emergency care, day surgery, elective care and critical care	50
2009-10			
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	312	Consolidation of Acute Services on Derby City General Hospital site enabling the development of a community facility on the Derby Royal Infirmary site	35
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	512	Major work to provide three hospitals for Women, Children, Adults and a specialist Eye Hospital (UC)	31
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	326	Rebuild and refurbishment of the King's Mill site and Mansfield community Hospital. Relocation of Acute services currently spread across three sites onto a	50
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	236	single site (which will include a Ministry of Defence MDHU) (UC)	33
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	29	New Community Hospital for South Holland	43
South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	32	Medium and Low security Mental Health unit on Runwell hospital site	100
Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust / County Durham PCT	30	Joint procurement for new adult mental health facilities at Lanchester Road Hospital and Stanley Primary Care centre for the PCT	100

[1] Not known. These schemes are at foundation trusts for which the Department does not hold the requested information. Information for these organisations can be obtained by contacting the chairman of the foundation trusts.

[2] No in-patient services.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged *(a)* between 0 and 15, *(b)* between 16 and 24, *(c)* between 25 and 39, *(d)* between 40 and 59 and *(e)* 60 years and over, who were admitted to hospital in December 2009 and January 2010 with conditions attributable to severe weather conditions. [313275]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data on hospital admissions directly attributable to weather conditions are not collected centrally.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care publishes Hospital Episode Statistics, which includes hospital admissions in England.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review the management of mentally ill offenders within the prison system. [313060]

Phil Hope: The Government published 'Improving Health, Supporting Justice: the national delivery plan of the Health and Criminal Justice Programme Board' on 17 November 2009. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The plan responds to Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disability in the criminal justice system and describes a wide range of policies and activities to improve the services available for offenders with mental health problems including the delivery of health services for them while in prison.

Mental Illness

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made on the proportion of people who have a mental health disorder; and on what evidence his estimate is based. [313182]

Phil Hope: One in six adults has a common mental disorder at any one time. This estimate is based on the 2007 Survey of Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adults living in private households in England.

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse has employed in each year since its inception. [312904]

Gillian Merron: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) Annual Accounts from 2001-02 to 2008-09 record the number of staff employed by the NTA as:

	Number
2001-02	27
2002-03	38
2003-04	79
2004-05	113
2005-06	137
2006-07	143
2007-08	173
2008-09	184

The activities of the NTA have increased significantly since its inception in 2001-02.

The NTA's role and responsibilities now include the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), Drug Intervention Programme (DIP), National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NATMS), and it has increased its capacity to support local delivery, including providing guidance and support to Drug Action Teams, ensuring they are able to provide drug misusers with a full range of services, as well as monitoring performance.

NHS: ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on information technology in the last three financial years; how much of this money was spent on *(a)* software development and testing, *(b)* software applications, *(c)* staff training in information technology and *(d)* the cost of new hardware and software. [313692]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 273W, on NHS: manpower, how many full-time equivalent *(a)* managers and *(b)* senior managers were in post in each (i) primary care trust and (ii) strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [313561]

Ann Keen: A table outlining the full-time equivalent number of managers and senior managers from 2004 to 2008 has been placed in the Library. The 2009 Workforce Census numbers are due to be released at the end of March.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average starting salary of an NHS doctor was in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [313379]

Ann Keen: Doctors are on national pay scales. For medical graduates entering their first post as a national health service doctor, the average starting in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Average starting salary of a newly qualified doctor

	£
1997-98	15,230
1998-99	15,800
1999-2000	16,710
2000-01	17,260
2001-02	17,935
2002-03	18,585
2003-04	19,185
2004-05	19,703
2005-06	20,295
2007-08	21,052
2008-09	21,862
2009-10	22,190

Note:
The starting salary quoted is for a new qualified doctor. Until 2006-07, this was known as a pre-registration house officer. This grade has since been replaced by a foundation house officer year 1.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average starting salary of an NHS nurse was in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [313380]

Ann Keen: The average starting salary of an NHS nurse since 1997 is shown in the following table. As nurses pay is set nationally this figure would have been the same in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and England.

Year[1]	*Average starting salary (£)*[2, 3]
1997	12,230
1998	12,630
1999	14,400
2000	14,890
2001	15,445
2002	16,005
2003	16,525
2004	17,060
2005	18,698
2006	19,166
2007	19,454
2008	20,225
2009	20,710

[1] As at 1 April each year.
[2] The average starting salary of a NHS nurse is normally the minimum of the grade applicable to basic grade qualified nurses.
[3] All the areas requested are covered by national pay schemes.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average starting salary of an NHS dentist was in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [313381]

Ann Keen: Information on average starting salaries for national health service dentists is not collected centrally.

Whilst there are opportunities for dentists to work as salaried employees of NHS trusts in both primary and secondary care roles, the majority of dentists provide primary dental care services within independent dental practices which contract with a primary care trust to provide NHS services. The remuneration arrangements for dentists working within the practice, either as the main contract holder or as partners, associates or employees of the practice owner, are an internal matter for the practice.

Prosthetics

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosthetic shoes have been rebuilt by the NHS for patients following leg operations in 2009-10; how many companies manufacture such shoes under contract with the NHS; with which such companies the NHS is in dispute over the contract; and if he will make a statement. [313038]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of prosthetic shoes is not collected centrally. There are four main prosthetic suppliers that provide clinical services and prosthetic components to the national health service within the United Kingdom and two others that supply prosthetic components only.

NHS contracts are agreed and managed locally, allowing organisations the ability to order direct or enter into contract with individual manufacturers and suppliers. Any contractual disputes will be resolved locally and central information about such issues are not collected.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [311984]

Phil Hope: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The "NHS Constitution" contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and a NHS Health Check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Slough constituency. For example:

Figures for October 2009 show that in Berkshire East Primary Care Trust (PCT):

92 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

97 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

In September 2009, at Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 98.6 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2008, the number of consultants at Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 76 to 120. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 1,154 to 1,386.

Between September 2001 and September 2008, the number of general practitioners per 100,000 within Berkshire East PCT has increased from 54.9 to 62.3.

96.8 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Berkshire East PCT opened its GP-led health centre on 15 December 2009 at Upton Hospital in Slough. The Slough Walk-in Centre offers longer opening hours, meaning that any member of the public will be able to see a GP or nurse between 8 am and 8 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

There are two private finance initiative (PFI) schemes in the area that serve this constituency: a £19 million PFI scheme from Berkshire West PCT that opened in March 2004 and a £30 million PFI scheme from Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust that opened in April 2003.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Slough will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms, with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the "Personal Care at Home Bill" will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.

"Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision of a National Care Service for all adults in England that is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year.

The National Carer's Strategy—Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities—launched in 2008.

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009.

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities—was published in January 2009.

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health" was launched in December 2009 to maintain improvements in mental health services, combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy, which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-97 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

Surgery: Technology

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the use of robotic radiosurgery systems in the national health service. [313049]

Ann Keen: Robotic radiosurgery is not currently available as a standard treatment within the national health service and so no such assessment has been made. The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group has set up a working group to look into the uses and different methods of delivery of stereotactic body radiotherapy.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each primary care trust *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* have been administered swine influenza vaccine to date. [312749]

Gillian Merron: At this stage, data on the number of people eligible to receive swine influenza vaccine by primary care trust (PCT) need to be validated by PCTs and the Health Protection Agency. This is ongoing and will be completed once the survey is completed. Therefore, we are not in a position to report the number eligible at present.

Provisional data (the latest that are available) by PCT for the number of patients that have received swine influenza vaccine from general practitioners and for the number of frontline healthcare workers vaccinated are given in the following table. These provisional figures are for the number people that have received at least one dose of vaccine. Most people need only one dose of swine influenza vaccine but some require two doses given at least three weeks apart (data on the number of people that have completed their vaccination course are not yet available).

PCT	*Provisional figures for the number of people administered swine flu vaccine by general practitioners (up to 31 December 2009)*	*Provisional figures for the number of healthcare workers that have received swine influenza vaccine (up to 17 January 2010)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	12,029	483
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5,109	321
Barnet PCT	11,092	652
Barnsley PCT	13,211	447
Bassetlaw PCT	5,345	172
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	10,603	665
Bedfordshire PCT	15,771	621
Berkshire East PCT	16,265	721
Berkshire West PCT	18,909	641
Bexley Care Trust (PCT based)	3,659	543
Birmingham East and North PCT	14,019	267
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	8,044	239
Blackpool PCT	2,018	471
Bolton PCT	11,674	632
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	26,376	794
Bradford and Airedale PCT	31,279	666
Brent Teaching PCT	10,876	430
Brighton and Hove City PCT	12,841	448
Bristol PCT	25,843	773
Bromley PCT	12,931	546
Buckinghamshire PCT	16,822	897
Bury PCT	750	539
Calderdale PCT	6,202	504
Cambridgeshire PCT	31,240	450
Camden PCT	8,405	274
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	30,823	859
Central Lancashire PCT	17,590	854
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	5,464	446
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	33,546	1,205
County Durham PCT	30,630	46
Coventry Teaching PCT	14,450	828
Croydon PCT	13,520	453
Cumbria PCT	27,370	1,544
Darlington PCT	4,634	539
Derby City PCT	13,986	167
Derbyshire County PCT	35,445	894
Devon PCT	37,999	1,707
Doncaster PCT	18,869	914
Dorset PCT	27,335	1,553
Dudley PCT	12,514	570
Ealing PCT	11,380	526
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	23,447	0
East Lancashire PCT	12,548	672
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	16,059	524
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	12,031	709
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	22,274	1,742
Enfield PCT	8,041	205
Gateshead PCT	13,009	262
Gloucestershire PCT	41,131	2,578
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	11,969	586
Greenwich Teaching PCT	8,419	390
Halton and St. Helens PCT	7,413	540
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	3,311	118
Hampshire PCT	63,426	1,454
Haringey Teaching PCT	7,394	439
Harrow PCT	9,775	402
Hartlepool PCT	2,600	150
Hastings and Rother PCT	6,897	362

PCT	*Provisional figures for the number of people administered swine flu vaccine by general practitioners (up to 31 December 2009)*	*Provisional figures for the number of healthcare workers that have received swine influenza vaccine (up to 17 January 2010)*
Havering PCT	13,027	726
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	12,137	274
Herefordshire PCT	11,462	470
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	7,147	514
Hillingdon PCT	14,206	735
Hounslow PCT	8,987	345
Hull PCT	12,381	223
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	2,704	1,443
Islington PCT	8,447	434
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	6,989	414
Kingston PCT	5,173	189
Kirklees PCT	20,414	759
Knowsley PCT	7,466	267
Lambeth PCT	7,350	423
Leeds PCT	40,616	522
Leicester City PCT	10,644	362
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	27,663	603
Lewisham PCT	7,466	553
Lincolnshire PCT	41,938	3,762
Liverpool PCT	22,576	861
Luton PCT	4,346	480
Manchester PCT	15,523	1,262
Medway PCT	8,037	552
Mid Essex PCT	15,542	850
Middlesbrough PCT	6,934	453
Milton Keynes PCT	9,340	345
Newcastle PCT	13,982	526
Newham PCT	12,340	616
Norfolk PCT	32,076	1,073
North East Essex PCT	11,687	562
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus (PCT based)	8,853	436
North Lancashire PCT	11,654	122
North Lincolnshire PCT	10,495	588
North Somerset PCT	8,176	519
North Staffordshire PCT	13,280	279
North Tyneside PCT	11,784	1,763
North Yorkshire and York PCT	51,803	490
Northamptonshire PCT	38,798	409
Northumberland Care Trust (PCT based)	25,240	717
Nottingham City PCT	18,641	1,208
Nottinghamshire County PCT	44,794	696
Oldham PCT	9,707	1,289
Oxfordshire PCT	35,100	598
Peterborough PCT	10,422	1,066
Plymouth Teaching PCT	16,410	483
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	6,635	547
Redbridge PCT	11,425	414
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	6,950	186
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	4,332	991
Rotherham PCT	14,731	1,266
Salford PCT	6,380	766
Sandwell PCT	10,389	438
Sefton PCT	12,131	285
Sheffield PCT	33,419	1,790
Shropshire County PCT	22,406	469
Solihull Care Trust (PCT based)	8,815	336
Somerset PCT	34,394	1,852
South Birmingham PCT	11,807	509
South East Essex PCT	14,046	265
South Gloucestershire PCT	11,630	836
South Staffordshire PCT	35,808	755
South Tyneside PCT	8,137	141
South West Essex PCT	17,847	494
Southampton City PCT	10,846	810
Southwark PCT	5,687	513
Stockport PCT	11,899	249
Stockton-on-Tees PCT	10,446	357
Stoke on Trent PCT	17,363	698
Suffolk PCT	33,617	491
Sunderland Teaching PCT	17,535	186
Surrey PCT	42,201	816
Sutton and Merton PCT	14,937	513
Swindon PCT	13,896	391
Tameside and Glossop PCT	9,552	609
Telford and Wrekin PCT	6,612	703
Torbay Care Trust (PCT based)	10,195	834
Tower Hamlets PCT	9,307	688
Trafford PCT	7,276	948

PCT	*Provisional figures for the number of people administered swine flu vaccine by general practitioners (up to 31 December 2009)*	*Provisional figures for the number of healthcare workers that have received swine influenza vaccine (up to 17 January 2010)*
Wakefield District PCT	23,208	1,426
Walsall Teaching PCT	14,558	329
Waltham Forest PCT	4,821	3
Wandsworth PCT	10,886	625
Warrington PCT	10,221	286
Warwickshire PCT	29,504	1,216
West Cheshire PCT	17,124	645
West Essex PCT	9,570	359
West Hertfordshire PCT	24,582	837
West Kent PCT	18,750	874
West Sussex PCT	42,960	957
Westminster PCT	7,059	441
Wiltshire PCT	29,757	658
Wirral PCT	19,079	667
Wolverhampton City PCT	9,529	844
Worcestershire PCT	25,664	799
Total	2,460,292	381,149

CABINET OFFICE

Green ICT Delivery Group

3. **Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the contribution of her Department's Green ICT delivery group to the Government's presentation to the Copenhagen climate change conference. [313353]

Tessa Jowell: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues on all areas of my Department's work.

This includes ensuring that the Government's Green ICT strategy supports delivery of the wider sustainability policy across the public sector.

Good progress is already being made, with over £6.8 million and 12,000 tonnes of carbon savings as reported in our One Year On Report.

NHS Charities

11. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions she has had with the Charity Commission and the Secretary of State for Health on proposed changes to the accounting treatment of NHS charities. [313362]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone).

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the original provisional budget was for the works in No. 10 Downing Street under planning application reference 09/00619/LBC. [312369]

Angela E. Smith: Information on capital expenditure on improving Cabinet Office buildings, including the Downing Street estate, is included in the annual Cabinet Office resource accounts.

Business: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses started up in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each of the last 12 years. [313506]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 26 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses started up in (a) Ashford constituency and (b) Kent in each of the last 12 years (313506).

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on business births for Kent county and Ashford by employment size band.

Enterprise births in Kent county and Ashford by employment size band

		0-4	*5-9*	*10-19*	*20+*	*Total*
2002	Kent county	5,395	475	140	35	6,045
	Ashford	485	50	20	5	560
2003	Kent county	5,435	515	165	30	6,145
	Ashford	480	50	20	5	555
2004	Kent county	6,355	430	130	30	6,945
	Ashford	575	50	10	0	635
2005	Kent county	5,925	410	110	25	6,470
	Ashford	535	45	10	0	590
2006	Kent county	5,705	410	130	20	6,265
	Ashford	580	35	5	0	620
2007	Kent county	6,200	425	135	25	6,785
	Ashford	630	40	10	5	685
2008	Kent county	5,665	360	160	35	6,220
	Ashford	585	35	20	5	645

Charities: Schools

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the policy of the Charity Commission is on undertaking investigations of whether schools with charitable status are promoting the public benefit; and what statutory provisions govern such Charity Commission investigations. [312287]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 20 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your question on what the policy of the Charity Commission is on undertaking investigations of whether schools with charitable status are promoting the public benefit; and what statutory provisions govern such Charity Commission investigations (312287).

In July last year, the Charity Commission published public benefit assessments of twelve charities, which included five charitable fee-charging schools. We conducted these assessments on a co-operative basis with the charities concerned. In the case of the schools, we worked with two that had volunteered to be assessed and with three that agreed to be assessed after we had approached them.

In terms of our policy and the context in which this is set, we carried out these assessments following the Charities Act 2006 which:

> changed the definition of charity by removing the presumption that certain categories of charity, including those which advance education, are for the public benefit. The revised definition means that all charities have to show that they have purposes which are for the public benefit; and
>
> gave the Charity Commission, as the independent regulator of charities, a statutory objective to promote awareness and understanding of the operation of the public benefit requirement.

These public benefit assessments are part of our work in furtherance of this statutory objective. We explain our policy on carrying out these assessments in section H of Charities and Public Benefit which, following extensive consultation, we published in January 2008. It is guidance to which all charities must have regard and which sets out the approach and factors we take in all those cases where we are looking at the public benefit of an organisation. In summary, we said that:

> in order to provide clear information about how the public benefit requirement is met by different groups of charities, we will issue guidance about what public benefit means for different types of charity and that such guidance would include pilot assessments of the public benefit of individual charities in different sub-sectors; and
>
> we were likely to carry out detailed public benefit assessments on charities most affected by the removal of the presumption of public benefit and about which public benefit concerns were raised during the debate on the Charities Bill, such as fee-charging charities.

These first assessments have provided practical examples on the application of the public benefit principles and guidance which should help other school charities to meet the requirement themselves. We think that, at this stage, these are sufficient for schools and we have not included schools in the second round of public benefit assessments which we started in December. Public benefit will, however, continue to be an essential element of our separate, reactive casework with charities (including schools) which we would not routinely publicise. In these cases we will explore public benefit in more detail only where:

> it is necessary to do so (because, for example, we must be satisfied that the revised aims of a charity will continue to be charitable before agreeing to a change of purpose), and
>
> there is a high risk that public benefit will be difficult to demonstrate—examples of high risk factors include private benefits, novel or controversial purposes, narrowly defined beneficiary classes and high fees.

In terms of the statutory provisions governing these assessments, the Commission has power, both at common law and under the Charities Act 1993, to do anything which may fairly be regarded as necessary, conducive or incidental to carrying out its statutory objectives and functions. Section 1D of the Charities Act 1993 (as inserted by the Charities Act 2006) requires us (so far as is necessary) to have regard to the principles of best regulatory practice in the performance of our functions. I should also mention, for the sake of completeness only, that we have formal inquiry and protection powers under section 8 and 18 of the Charities Act 1993: we have not used these powers in relation to charitable schools and public benefit and would only do so where serious misconduct or mismanagement is involved or where it is necessary to protect charity assets.

We published a short briefing for MPs about these assessments last July, and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department has issued recent guidance to non-departmental bodies and executive agencies on the outsourcing of civil service jobs abroad. [312289]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has not issued guidance to non-departmental bodies and executive agencies on the outsourcing of civil service jobs abroad.

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* salary range and *(c)* sponsoring public body was of each job vacancy posted on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway that was only advertised on the private part of the website in the last three months. [312304]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson), then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, on 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W.

Deaths: Infectious Diseases

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in how many cases *(a)* staphylococcus aureus, *(b)* meticillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus and *(c)* Clostridium difficile has been mentioned on death certificates in each region in each year since 1997. [313937]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 27 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in how many cases *(a)* staphylococcus aureus, *(b)* meticillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus and *(c)* Clostridium difficile has been mentioned on death certificates in each region in each year since 1997. (313937)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where (a) Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus) (Table 1), (b) meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) (Table 2) and (c) Clostridium difficile (C difficile) (Table 3) was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in each government office region in England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available). Figures for 1997, 1998 and 2000 are not available for Table 3.

Although Staphylococcus aureus, meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Clostridium difficile are defined by the Health Protection Agency as healthcare associated infections, it is not possible to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death, or where the infection was acquired.

Table 1: Number of deaths where Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus) was mentioned on the death certificate, government office regions in England, 1997 to 2008[1,2,3]

	Deaths (persons)											
Government office region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North East	38	32	32	47	47	51	84	95	100	104	106	102
North West	95	119	98	126	126	141	173	168	237	236	239	194
Yorkshire and The Humber	54	68	85	94	114	111	127	163	197	168	170	139
East Midlands	61	74	74	76	103	91	119	131	148	181	153	129
West Midlands	92	103	120	141	126	134	132	156	241	246	249	178
East of England	87	85	99	112	122	124	152	177	196	241	248	129
London	108	101	132	135	153	147	153	179	225	257	227	159
South East	118	126	156	204	208	203	226	256	348	359	297	205
South West	68	91	94	118	131	137	157	189	268	233	252	160

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving MRSA; England and Wales, 2008. Health Statistics Quarterly 43, 38-42

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year

Table 2. Number of deaths where meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) was mentioned on the death certificate, government office regions in England, 1997 to 2008[1,2,3]

	Deaths (persons)											
Government office region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North East	11	15	13	23	31	35	56	68	78	82	85	88
North West	43	60	48	62	55	78	112	120	184	174	199	171
Yorkshire and The Humber	29	30	40	45	64	77	79	114	150	126	130	105
East Midlands	19	28	36	44	66	50	76	86	116	136	116	98
West Midlands	48	50	64	81	78	82	93	108	203	183	202	147
East of England	49	35	49	68	81	83	100	129	143	187	192	105
London	55	47	58	84	90	100	107	130	187	189	174	133
South East	61	64	73	131	137	141	171	179	258	292	224	167
South West	38	42	48	67	79	90	108	135	217	187	195	123

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving MRSA; England and Wales, 2008. Health Statistics Quarterly 43, 38-42.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 3. Number of deaths where Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) was mentioned on the death certificate, government office regions in England, 1999, 2001-08[1,2,3,4]

	Deaths (persons)								
Government office region	*1999*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North East	54	65	76	103	129	222	207	328	347
North West	134	157	174	220	271	334	513	1010	980
Yorkshire and The Humber	60	87	114	117	153	181	267	510	486
East Midlands	63	66	65	95	137	411	917	823	502
West Midlands	86	121	140	225	283	534	1115	1255	771
East of England	82	144	187	230	246	395	748	1035	465
London	138	188	209	223	238	529	756	1001	534
South East	164	171	206	312	338	507	1016	1080	750
South West	137	150	154	195	351	535	762	874	630

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 2008. Health Statistics Quarterly 43, 43-47.

[2] All deaths in England and Wales are coded by the Office for National Statistics according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The Tenth Revision (ICD-10) has been used since 2001. In the Ninth Revision of the ICD (ICD-9) there are no specific codes that would allow deaths mentioning Clostridium difficile to be easily identified. Figures for 1998 and 2000 are therefore not available as ICD-9 was used in these years. Deaths registered in 1999 were coded to both ICD-9 and ICD-10 as part of a special study to compare the two ICD revisions, and have therefore been used to give an additional year of data on deaths involving Clostridium difficile.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much consultants employed by her Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [314000]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of the 1,499 Government websites identified for closure in the Varney review have *(a)* been closed and *(b)* not been closed. [312184]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 27 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [312184] regarding Government Websites.

The purpose of closing websites is to package the content appropriately for the intended audience and put into a place easy to find and useful for them. The Varney review requested Departments undertake Website Reviews because the number was not at that time known. We have now got a robust process for identifying and recording government websites. Of the 1,700 websites identified by Departments by 31 December 2009, 907 were closed with a further 479 committed to be closed that are not yet closed.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which websites were identified for closure by the Department Website Review; which of these have been closed; and what Department or other body sponsors or sponsored each website. [312302]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 27 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [312302] regarding Government Websites.

Each Department is responsible for its own Website Review, with guidance and advice from the Cabinet Office and Central Office of Information. The list of websites that Departments have reported as closed and those which they have committed to close was placed in Parliament's Library. The list is the latest prepared and was up to date end of June 2009.

Government: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many websites are being operated by *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies. [312281]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 27 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [312281] regarding Government Websites.

As of 31 December 2009, Departments have reported through their Website Reviews that they are operating 1,700 websites minus the 907 they have closed, i.e. 793. Of these, 182 are run by Departments and 611 by Executive Agencies and NDPBs. No central record is held that distinguishes between Executive Agencies and NDPBs.

Life Expectancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy was for *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each (i) local authority area, (ii) parliamentary constituency, (iii) middle layer super output area and (iv) lower layer super output area in each of the last five years. [313164]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 26 January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy was for (a) males and (b) females in each (i) local authority area, (ii) parliamentary constituency, (iii) middle layer super output area and (iv) lower layer super output area in each of the last five years. I am replying in his absence. (313164)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three-year rolling averages, and are published annually by ONS[1]. A local government reorganisation took place on 1st April 2009, in which a number of former local authorities were merged to form new unitary authorities. Life expectancy figures on the latest boundaries are only available for 2006-08. Life expectancy figures based on the old boundaries are available for all five years (2002-04 to 2006-08). For completeness, both sets of figures have been provided in this Answer.

Table 1 provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) males and (b) females in each (i) local authority in England and Wales, for 2002-04 to 2006-08 using pre-April 2009 boundaries. Table 2 provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) males and (b) females in each (i) local authority in England and Wales, for 2006-08 using post-April 2009 boundaries (the latest figures available). A copy of each table has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Life expectancy figures for (ii) parliamentary constituencies, (iii) middle layer super output areas and (iv) lower layer super output areas are not available. Life expectancy cannot be reliably calculated for areas smaller than local authorities for similar time periods.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2009). Report: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2006-08. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 44, 59-68.

Married People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many married couples there are in the UK; and how many such couples there are where both persons are under the age of 65, have not remarried, are living together in the same residence have children under the age of 18, and are not both in employment; and if she will make a statement. [312613]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your request asking how many married couples there are in the UK; and how many such couples there are where both persons are under the age of 65, have not remarried, are living together in the same residence, have children under the age of 18, and are not both in employment; and if she will make a statement. I am replying in his absence. (312613)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using Annual Population Survey (APS) household data. The table below shows 2008 estimates from the APS for the family types requested. It is not possible to estimate from this source whether couples have or have not remarried. In addition, figures are based on dependent children (children aged under 16 and those aged 16 to 18 who have never married and are in full time education) rather than all children under the age of 18.

For information, the estimate of married couples includes all married couples with and without children, and is the same as given in the letter from the Director General in Official Report 504, column 51.

Type of family	*Number of couples in the UK (thousand)*
Married couples	12,170
Married couples with all of the following characteristics: both persons are under the age of 65, the couple are living together in the same residence, the couple have dependent children, one or neither partners in the couple are in employment	1,388

Note:
These estimates do not include civil partnered or same-sex cohabiting couples.
Source:
APS household data, January to December 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Married People: Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what changes have been made to the mechanisms by which information on marital status has been collected by the Office for National Statistics since 1997. [313090]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 26 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what changes have been made to the mechanisms by which information on marital status has been collected by the Office for National Statistics since 1997. (313090)

Information on marital status can be broadly separated into information that provides estimates of the population by marital status at a given point in time ('stocks'), and information on the movement of people between different marital status categories over a given period of time ('flows'). Both types of information are collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) through a variety of sources, and both types of information are used to calculate population estimates and projections by marital status. For most statistics on marital status, ONS currently publishes statistics for England and Wales only.

With regard to both stocks and flows, the main change since 1997 in the collection of information on marital status has been the introduction of civil partnerships. The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force on 5 December 2005 in the UK. The Act enables same-sex couples aged 16 and over to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Other than this change, the collection of information on marital status has remained largely unchanged since 1997.

The main mechanisms for the collection of data on stock estimates by marital status are social surveys and censuses. Following the introduction of the Civil Partnership Act, questions in ONS social surveys (such as the Annual Population Survey) have been changed to allow the collection of information on the currently and previously civil partnered population. Information on revised survey questions is available in the following document:

"Harmonised Concepts and Questions for Social Data Sources: Primary Standards—Demographic information, household composition and relationships"

www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/harmonisation/primary-concepts-and-questions/P2.pdf

The main mechanism for the collection of data on changes in marital status (flows) is the registration of vital events. Data on birth, death, marriage and civil partnership registrations are collected by the General Register Office (GRO), which supplies data to ONS for statistical purposes. Similarly, data on divorces and civil partnership dissolutions are supplied to ONS by the HM Court Service.

The main change in marital status vital event registration since 1997 has been the collection of data on the formation and legal dissolution of civil partnerships. In addition, changes have been made to the registration of deaths (to identify deaths of the currently and previously civil partnered population) and the registration of births by parents' marital status (related to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act). Information on civil partnerships is available at the link below.

www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=1685

Public Sector: Public Appointments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether she plans to encourage Select Committees to hold pre-appointment hearings in respect of public sector appointments; [311449]

(2) whether she has plans to provide to Select Committees information on candidates short-listed for an appointment in respect of which they hold pre-appointment hearings. [311450]

Tessa Jowell: The Government have introduced pre-appointments hearings as part of a wider programme of work to strengthen the role of Parliament. Policy on pre-appointment hearings is set out in the White Paper "The Governance of Britain—Constitutional Renewal". Copies are available from the Libraries of the House and online at:

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7342/7342_i.asp

Public Sector: Termination of Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department has issued guidance to Government departments on the termination of employment of public sector workers on grounds of inefficiency. [312293]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has not issued any guidance to Government Departments on the termination of employment of public sector workers.

In relation the terms and conditions of service of staff, the Cabinet Office's remit covers the civil service.

Skin Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of melanoma in *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been reported in each primary care trust area since 1997. [313973]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cases of melanoma in (a) adults and (b) children have been reported in each primary care trust area since 1997. [313973]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of melanoma (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The tables attached provide the number of melanoma cases reported in (a) adults aged 16 years and over, for each primary care organisation in England, from 1997 to 2007 (Table 1), and (b) children aged under 16 years in England, from 1997 to 2007 (Table 2). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Figures have not been provided for children aged under 16 years for each primary care organisation, as these data are judged to be too detailed to preserve anonymity in cancer registration statistics.

Social Mobility Commission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria will be used to appoint members of the Social Mobility Commission announced in Cm 7755, Unleashing Aspiration; what the Commission's budget will be in its first year; and whether this funding will be additional to funding announced in the pre-Budget report. [312700]

Angela E. Smith: In 'Unleashing Aspirations', published on 18 January 2010, the Government set out their response to the final report of the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions, and agreed to establish a Social Mobility Commission. It will give expert advice to Government and report on progress towards a fairer, more mobile society.

A transition team has been set up within the Cabinet Office to make the necessary preparations for this Commission, which will follow shortly. The transition team will develop the detail of the Commission's governance, remit, funding and work programme. It will also advise on the appointment of members and the selection criteria for any appointments to the Commission.

The budget for the Social Mobility Commission has yet to be established, and will form part of the consideration of the transition team.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships which will be taken up by people over 24 years old in Torbay constituency in the next five years. [312864]

Kevin Brennan: Information on projected apprenticeship volumes is not available by parliamentary constituency.

In 2008/09, there were 190 apprenticeship starts by learners aged 25 and over in Torbay parliamentary constituency.

Nationally, in our Skills Strategy (Skills for Growth, November 2009) we promised to boost advanced and higher apprenticeship opportunities for 19 to 30-year-olds.

Notes:

1. Figures for parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. This figure is based on age at start of programme and upon the home postcode of the learner.

Banks: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of Government-guaranteed loans issued by UK banks *(a)* in total and *(b)* via the credit guarantee scheme in the last 12 months. [313280]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, the Government's loan guarantee scheme launched on 14 January 2009, 6,330 businesses have drawn down loans with a value of over £630 million as of 20 January 2010.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of loans which remained outstanding in the Bank of England special liquidity scheme at the time the scheme closed. [313281]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The drawdown period for the Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) closed on 30 January 2009. The nominal value of Treasury bills drawn down as of 30 January 2009 was £185 billion.

Further details can be found at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/marketnotice090203c.pdf

Business Link: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Stroud constituency have received a health check from Business Link. [312755]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Business Link does not break this data down by parliamentary constituency, but 237 businesses have received health checks in the Stroud District Council area, between October 2008 and 31 December 2009.

Business: Ashford, Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Ashford constituency have received a health check from Business Link. [313518]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 252 health checks have been conducted in Ashford between the launch of the service on 23 October 2008 and 18 December 2009, the latest date for which figures are available.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in Eastbourne have received assistance under the business loan scheme since the inception of that scheme. [302996]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 934W.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support small and medium-sized businesses during the recession; and if he will make a statement. [310834]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Department has introduced a range of measures to help businesses through the global recession and is continuing to provide help to promote growth during the recovery. Small and medium-sized businesses can find information and support at

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

or by contacting the Business Link Helpline on 0845 6009006.

Measures include:

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) - encourages additional bank lending to viable businesses who have no or insufficient security and who would not otherwise secure a commercial loan. A £1.3 billion facility is in place to be accessed by the end of March 2010, and this was extended in the recent Pre-Budget Report for a further year to March 2011, with a £500 million budget for the financial year 2010-11. Over £1.09 billion of eligible EFG applications from over 9,700 firms have been granted, are being processed or assessed, and over 7,500 businesses have been offered loans totalling £763 million.

The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) - a £75 million fund supporting viable business with equity or mezzanine investment aimed at releasing and sustaining growth and can invest between £200,000 and £2 million where the business has exhausted its borrowing capacity with lenders. Offers totalling over £76 million have been made to 50 businesses, of which thirty one offers worth £47.7 million are live. 15 businesses have received investment so far totalling £19.9 million. Businesses who would like to explore whether the fund might benefit them can contact the fund managers assigned to their geographical location through

www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk/portfolio

Health Checks through Business Link which provide a free review of a business with a professional business adviser for hands-on advice and help accessing the full range of government help. To date, nearly 104, 000 businesses have benefited from health checks. 79 per cent. of SMEs accessing Health Checks were satisfied with the information provided and of those who accessed additional support, 93 per cent. were satisfied with this further assistance. 86 per cent. of all assisted businesses would recommend Health Checks to other businesses[1].

[1] Early Assessment of Business Link Healthchecks - November 2009

Encouraging prompt payment - Government Departments have committed to pay their bills within 10 days to help small businesses, and we have encouraged big companies to sign up to a Code of Practice to help their suppliers. Up to now, 758 organisations have signed up to the code, including 25 FTSE 100 companies. We are also helping business manage their finances (over 109, 000 guides on 'Help with managing your cashflow' have already been downloaded from the BusinessLink.gov.uk website).

Additional flexibilities for SMEs were introduced into Train to Gain from January 2009 to help employers continue to train their staff through the recession in preparation for the recovery. These flexibilities included access to funding for repeat qualifications, the introduction of units of learning in business critical areas such as marketing and IT, and extension of the access to the leadership and management advisory service for very small SMEs (less than 10 employees). In 2008-09 academic year, over 559,800 SME employees have started courses through Train to Gain.

In addition, the Solutions for Business (SfB) portfolio is the Government's long term, simplified offer of support products for business. Government provide about £2 billion of support to business through the portfolio. Solutions for Business products offer help with common issues such as accessing finance, innovation, business and manufacturing advice, research and development, knowledge sharing, skills and training, exporting and overseas trade, and resource efficiency, including low carbon. Small and medium-sized businesses can find information and support at

www.businesslink.gov.uk/solutions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the level of personal guarantees required by lenders in respect of the portion of each loan advanced under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme that is not guaranteed by the Government. [313142]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department holds no information the level of personal guarantees required by a lender. Lenders are required to record whether or not a personal guarantee has been taken with respect to each EFG facility guaranteed. The level of personal guarantee is a matter for the lender concerned and will vary according to the commercial lending practices of each lender.

Lenders are entitled to require a personal guarantee covering some or all the proposed EFG facility. That personal guarantee must be specific to the EFG facility and must not be solely or preferentially attributed to cover the lender's 25 per cent. exposure which is not covered by the Government 75 per cent. guarantee.

Lenders are not permitted to take a direct charge over a principal private residence for a new EFG facility.

Cadbury Schweppes: Kraft Foods

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the proposed takeover of Cadbury by Kraft; and what discussions the Government has had with Kraft on that matter. [313084]

Ian Lucas: The Government have received numerous letters expressing concern about this matter. The Secretary of State has received written assurances from the chief executive of Kraft about Cadbury's production, legacy and workforce. The Secretary of State is also seeking an early meeting with Kraft senior management to hear how the company will fulfil the commitments they have made to Cadbury, its workforce and long term future.

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2011W, on conditions of employment, what provisions of the Government's manifesto relating to the outcome of the National Policy Forum in July 2004 have *(a)* been implemented and *(b)* not been implemented. [312352]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the right hon. Member to my earlier responses of 10 September, 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1148w and 14 September *Official Report*, column 2182w, to his questions on similar issues.

I reiterate that the Government continue to remain committed, on the conditions of employment, to fulfilling its May 2005 Manifesto over the course of this Parliament.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such powers; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessors and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309294]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not held centrally within the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Letters from the executive agencies follow.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 December 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what powers (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such powers; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessors and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service does not hold power to impose any administrative penalties.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 21 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 16 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office does not levy administrative financial penalties.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 15 January 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 16 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills concerning powers to impose administrative penalties.

The powers which this Agency exercises, relating to the regulation of legal weights and measures used in trade and the enforcement of various European Directives, do not currently extend to imposing administrative penalties.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 25 January 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 16 December 2009, UIN 309294, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has responsibility for two types of administrative penalties.

Section 27 of the Companies Act 2006 provides the Registrar with the power to impose a civil penalty on a company for failure to comply with a notice to file a copy of the company's articles, or a document making or evidencing an alteration to the company's articles. This new section came into force in October 2009 and no penalties have yet been recovered.

Section 453 of the Companies Act 2006 (formerly section 242A of the Companies Act 1985) imposes civil penalties on companies that file their annual accounts after the due date. The Registrar of Companies has a duty to collect the penalties that have been imposed under this section of the Act. The amounts recovered in penalties for each of the last ten years are as follows:

	£ million
1999/2000	21.8
2000/01	25.2
2001/02	23.7
2002/03	27.6
2003/04	28.0
2004/05	32.0
2005/06	30.2
2006/07	39.0
2007/08	42.0
2008/09	[1]52.9

[1] The higher than usual increase in 2008/09 is as a result of an increase in penalty levels agreed by Parliament on 6 April 2008.

All receipts are remitted to the consolidated fund. They are not retained by Companies House or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses in 2009-10. [301300]

Mr. McFadden: BIS was formed through a MOG change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Due to the timing of the MOG change it was decided that both Departments would continue with separate remits for 2009-10 before producing a single BIS remit for 2010-11. The two former Departments have allocated the following amounts of money for performance awards in 2009-10:

	Department	
	BERR	DIUS
Amount of money allocated for "in year" performance awards (£)	427,578	—
Percentage of pay bill allocated for "in year" performance awards	0.40	—
Amount of money allocated for annual performance awards (£)	931,300	280,756
Percentage of pay bill allocated for annual performance awards	0.86	0.70
FTEs	2,300	784

Notes:

1. The data included cover all staff below the SCS.

2. The DIUS data for the "in year" performance award budget are currently unavailable as these are held locally at an individual group level. The "in year" performance bonuses that were awarded in 2008-09 totalled £13,855.

Land Agreements Exclusion and Revocation Order 2004

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to lay before Parliament the instrument to repeal the Land Agreements Exclusion and Revocation Order 2004. [313377]

Kevin Brennan: The instrument to repeal the Land Agreements Exclusion and Revocation Order 2004 was laid before Parliament on 21 January 2010.

Manufacturing Industries: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of export credit guarantees in supporting the manufacturing industry; and if he will make a statement. [313006]

Ian Lucas: Since the start of 2009, the Government have introduced a number of initiatives which will provide real help to exporters, as well as other businesses, during the current economic downturn. These have included the Working Capital Scheme, and on 20 October 2009 it was announced that ECGD, the UK export credit agency, was launching a scheme to support the confirmation of Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme.

The Government are considering what other measures might support manufacturing industry and has and will continue to work with banks and business organisations to identify what further measures may be appropriate. ECGD will continue to work with UKTI and regional development agencies to ensure British exporters get the real help they need to take advantage of all the opportunities open to them.

National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship has cost in each year since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [313330]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) was set up as an independent company limited by guarantee in 2004 by British Chambers of Commerce and other stakeholders. NCGE is funded by BIS to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship in our universities, with the aim of increasing the numbers of students, and graduates thinking about and actually becoming self-employed or starting a business. NCGE has received the following funding:

	(£)
2003-04	189,175
2004-05	700,175
2005-06	910,000
2006-07	901,500
2007-08	725,000
2008-09	955,000
2009-10	1,410,868

This year their programmes include Flying Start providing 8,000 students and graduates with the opportunity to attend workshop style events that encourage them to think seriously about becoming self-employed, and help them to develop a business idea.

New Businesses: Females

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what new initiatives his Department has taken to help unemployed young women to set up small businesses in the last 12 months. [313525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is continuing to work with the Department for Work and Pensions to raise the profile of enterprise among jobseekers, including young women, and help them access the advice and support they need. Building on the success of the self-employment support provided under the "Six Month Offer", access to intensive business start-up support and advice through Business Link is due to be extended to those who have been unemployed for 13 weeks or more. In addition, eligible jobseekers will be able to receive the tax-free Self-Employment Credit of £50 a week for up to 16 weeks to help with the transition from benefits to work, including self-employment.

Female entrepreneurship is also being encouraged through the "Flying Start—Make It Happen" programme, where 5,000 more places have been made available to provide unemployed graduates with the help and support they need to become successful entrepreneurs and start their own business.

One North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the estimated monetary value was of One North East's share in the assets of the North East Property Partnership on 1 April in each year from 2004 to 2009; how much income was received by One North East from the partnership in 2008-09; and how much it is estimated will be received in 2009-10. [312815]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* The value of One North East's share in the assets of the North East Property Partnership (NEPP), including the Loan Notes receivable by the Agency were, on 1 April in each year, as follows:

	£
2005	154,361,000
2006	135,753,000
2007	139,241,000
2008	126,437,000
2009	108,143,000

NEPP was created 1 April 2004. The first set of accounts was therefore for the year ending 31 March 2005.

ONE received £8.4 million income from the partnership in 2008-09.

The estimated income to be received in 2009-10 is £11 million.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many units were in the portfolio which One North East transferred to the North East Property partnership on 1 April 2004; what the average rent roll was of those units; and what the total area was of those units. [312816]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* The information requested is as follows:

The number of units in the portfolio was—883.

The average rent roll per unit is—£12,774.

The total area of the units is—384,110 m^2.

Small Businesses: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses in the London Borough of Bexley have applied for financial assistance under the *(a)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee and *(b)* Capital Enterprise Scheme since their inception; and how many such applications have been granted under each scheme. [311562]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 13 January, 14 businesses in the London Borough of Bexley have been offered loans totalling £1.15 million. Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, is most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

With respect to the Capital for Enterprise Fund equity scheme, CfEF received 243 enquiries from businesses in London seeking investment to the value of £293 million. Thus far, four businesses have received investments totalling £4.8 million, two businesses have agreed terms on investments with a value of £3.2 million, three businesses has been offered investment totalling £5 million and 23 propositions are under active consideration with a value of £39.3 million. The remaining enquiries are either being considered subject to further information to be supplied by the applicant or have been rejected or withdrawn. I am unable to provide a breakdown by parliamentary constituency or local authority as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received support.

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313403]

Mr. McFadden: The statistical information requested is only available in London at borough level. I refer the right hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report* column 685W.

Unemployment: Young People

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 18 and 24 years and not in employment, education, or training in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [312786]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 gives estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 18 to 24 not in education employment or training (NEET) in each region in quarter 3 2009. This information is from the Labour Force Survey. Please note quarterly estimates are heavily affected by seasonality and peak in quarter 3.

We are unable to produce NEET estimates for 18 to 24-year-olds by local authority as the sample sizes are too small, however we do have estimates for 16 to 24 year old NEET by local education authority taken from the 2008 Annual Population Survey. These estimates are given in table 2. Please note that these figures are not comparable with those in table 1, as they are for a different age group and a different time period.

All of the estimates given are subject to sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-4.2 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 4.2pp above the estimate and 4.2pp below the estimate.

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[1] Age used is respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals.

In December 2009, the Government published Investing in Potential, our strategy to increase the proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds in education, employment or training and reduce the proportion of those who are NEET. This can be found here:

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01145-2009

Table 1: People aged 18 to 24 not in education, employment or training in Q3 2009

Region	*Number NEET*	*Percentage NEET*	*95 per cent. Confidence Interval*
North East	67,000	25.7	+/-4.6
North West	160,000	23.7	+/-27
Yorks and Humber	103,000	20.2	+/-2.9
East Midlands	76,000	18.1	+/-3.1
West Midlands	109,000	22.1	+/-3.1
East of England	78,000	17.2	+/-2.9
London	148,000	18.7	+/-2.6
South East	118,000	16.6	+/-2.3
South West	73,000	17.0	+/-3.0
England	933,000	19.7	+/-1.0

Base:
18 to 24-year-olds
Source:
Q3 2009 Labour Force Survey

Table 2: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in 2008

	Number NEET	*Percentage NEET*	*95 per cent. Confidence Interval*
England	857,000	14.3	+/-0.4
Barking and Dagenham	4,000	20	+/-7
Barnet	7,000	19	+/-8
Barnsley	5,000	19	+/-6
Bath and North East Somerset	2,000	9	+/-4
Bedfordshire	4,000	8	+/-4

Table 2: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in 2008

	Number NEET	*Percentage NEET*	*95 per cent. Confidence Interval*
Bexley	3,000	14	+/-8
Birmingham	29,000	20	+/-5
Blackburn with Darwen	2,000	16	+/-5
Blackpool	2,000	12	+/-5
Bolton	4,000	12	+/-5
Bournemouth	3,000	14	+/-5
Bracknell Forest	2,000	13	+/-6
Bradford	9,000	14	+/-5
Brent	4,000	14	+/-7
Brighton and Hove	4,000	12	+/-4
Bristol	9,000	14	+/-5
Bromley	5,000	16	+/-8
Buckinghamshire	5,000	11	+/-5
Bury	3,000	14	+/-5
Calderdale	4,000	18	+/-6
Cambridgeshire	8,000	11	+/-5
Camden	3,000	10	+/-5
Cheshire	9,000	13	+/-4
Cornwall	5,000	10	+/-5
Coventry	9,000	19	+/-5
Croydon	6,000	16	+/-9
Cumbria	2,000	5	+/-4
Darlington	1,000	12	+/-6
Derby	4,000	13	+/-5
Derbyshire	10,000	14	+/-5
Devon	5,000	6	+/-3
Doncaster	8,000	22	+/-6
Dorset	3,000	8	+/-5
Dudley	8,000	19	+/-5
Durham	11,000	17	+/-5
Ealing	5,000	13	+/-7
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,000	14	+/-6
East Sussex	8,000	17	+/-6
Enfield	3,000	12	+/-7
Essex	21,000	14	+/-4
Gateshead	4,000	21	+/-6
Gloucestershire	6,000	10	+/-5
Greenwich	4,000	16	+/-8
Hackney	5,000	20	+/-8
Halton	3,000	23	+/-6
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,000	12	+/-7
Hampshire	16,000	11	+/-3
Haringey	6,000	20	+/-8
Harrow	3,000	13	+/-7
Hartlepool	3,000	27	+/-7
Havering	2,000	7	+/-5
Herefordshire	2,000	12	+/-6
Hertfordshire	14,000	13	+/-4
Hillingdon	4,000	15	+/-7
Hounslow	6,000	22	+/-8
Isle of Wight	2,000	18	+/-7
Islington	3,000	14	+/-6
Kensington and Chelsea	3,000	16	+/-9
Kent	25,000	17	+/-4
Kingston upon Hull	8,000	18	+/-5
Kingston upon Thames	2,000	11	+/-6
Kirklees	8,000	19	+/-6
Knowsley	5,000	20	+/-5
Lambeth	4,000	12	+/-7
Lancashire	21,000	14	+/-4
Leeds	20,000	15	+/-4
Leicester	9,000	18	+/-5
Leicestershire	9,000	14	+/-5
Lewisham	5,000	19	+/-8
Lincolnshire	10,000	13	+/-4
Liverpool	10,000	15	+/-5
Luton	4,000	16	+/-5
Manchester	13,000	16	+/-4
Medway	5,000	18	+/-6
Merton	3,000	15	+/-9
Middlesbrough	5,000	24	+/-6
Milton Keynes	2,000	9	+/-5
Newcastle upon Tyne	6,000	10	+/-4
Newham	4,000	12	+/-6
Norfolk	15,000	17	+/-5
North East Lincolnshire	4,000	21	+/-7
North Lincolnshire	2,000	15	+/-6
North Somerset	2,000	7	+/-4
North Tyneside	4,000	20	+/-7
North Yorkshire	7,000	12	+/-5
Northamptonshire	12,000	14	+/-5
Northumberland	4,000	11	+/-5
Nottingham	7,000	12	+/-4
Nottinghamshire	12,000	14	+/-5
Oldham	7,000	25	+/-6
Oxfordshire	6,000	8	+/-4
Peterborough	4,000	20	+/-6
Plymouth	3,000	8	+/-4
Poole	2,000	12	+/-5
Portsmouth	3,000	8	+/-4
Reading	2,000	11	+/-5
Redbridge	4,000	14	+/-7
Redcar and Cleveland	4,000	27	+/-7
Richmond upon Thames	2,000	12	+/-8
Rochdale	3,000	14	+/-5
Rotherham	7,000	24	+/-7
Rutland	*	*	*
Salford	6,000	22	+/-5
Sandwell	9,000	26	+/-6
Sefton	7,000	19	+/-6
Sheffield	13,000	16	+/-5
Shropshire	3,000	10	+/-5
Slough	2,000	14	+/-5
Solihull	4,000	18	+/-7
Somerset	7,000	13	+/-6
South Gloucestershire	2,000	7	+/-4
South Tyneside	3,000	16	+/-5
Southampton	4,000	10	+/-4
Southend on Sea	3,000	20	+/-7
Southwark	6,000	16	+/-7

Table 2: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in 2008

	Number NEET	*Percentage NEET*	*95 per cent. Confidence Interval*
St Helens	4,000	21	+/-6
Staffordshire	11,000	11	+/-4
Stockport	4,000	13	+/-5
Stockton-on-Tees	4,000	18	+/-6
Stoke-on-Trent	5,000	19	+/-6
Suffolk	11,000	16	+/-5
Sunderland	6,000	15	+/-5
Surrey	8,000	8	+/-3
Sutton	1,000	8	+/-7
Swindon	3,000	16	+/-6
Tameside	6,000	23	+/-6
Telford and Wrekin	3,000	15	+/-6
Thurrock	3,000	17	+/-6
Torbay	2,000	12	+/-5
Tower Hamlets	7,000	22	+/-7
Trafford	3,000	13	+/-5
Wakefield	7,000	16	+/-5
Walsall	5,000	17	+/-6
Waltham Forest	6,000	18	+/-7
Wandsworth	3,000	12	+/-9
Warrington	3,000	14	+/-5
Warwickshire	6,000	13	+/-6
West Berkshire	1,000	9	+/-6
West Sussex	8,000	11	+/-4
Westminster	5,000	15	+/-7
Wigan	5,000	13	+/-5
Wiltshire	7,000	15	+/-6
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,000	10	+/-6
Wirral	6,000	20	+/-7
Wokingham	2,000	11	+/-6
Wolverhampton	9,000	29	+/-7
Worcestershire	5,000	8	+/-5
York	1,000	4	+/-3

* = Data has been suppressed as the sample is too small.

Base:
16 to 24-year-olds

Source:
2008 Annual Population Survey

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 28 January 2010

TRANSPORT

High-Speed Rail

13. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of progress on the development of a North-South high-speed rail link. [313723]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is continuing its assessment of the detailed report from High Speed Two which was received at the end of last year. If the Government decide to pursue proposals for high speed rail, we will publish a White Paper setting out plans by the end of March 2010.

Rail Fares

14. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average change has been in the level of regulated rail fares since 1997. [313725]

Chris Mole: Figures derived from the Office of Rail Regulation's National Rail Trends show that, between January 1997 and January 2009, regulated fares rose by 5.1 per cent. in real terms. The figures for 2010 have not yet been published.

Speed Cameras

15. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proposals he has to install further speed cameras on the motorway network. [313726]

Paul Clark: Speed cameras are used on the motorway network to improve the safety of the travelling public and road workers.

The Highways Agency are planning to deliver 19 Managed and Controlled Motorway schemes by March 2015.

Southend Airport

16. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the expansion of Southend Airport. [313727]

Paul Clark: Between late 2008 and January this year my Department received five representations on Southend airport from the Member for Southend, West and one from the Member for Rochford and Southend, East, as well as 13 letters and e-mails from members of the public.

East Midlands Trains

17. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will discuss with East Midlands Trains the merits of reinstating non-stop passenger rail services between London St. Pancras and Kettering; and if he will make a statement. [313728]

Chris Mole: The East Midlands timetable was designed to ensure that there is sufficient capacity for the increasing demand at Kettering and other stations on the route. Having long-distance services call at Kettering would increase the likelihood of there being insufficient seats for all passengers.

Rail Franchise System

18. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has for the future of the rail franchise system. [313729]

Chris Mole: "The Future of Rail Franchising", which was published on 20 January, discusses potential changes to franchise competitions and contract design. Consultation papers for the Essex Thameside, East Coast and Greater Anglia were published on 21 January. Final decisions on these franchises will be taken before the invitations to tender are issued.

A14

[illegible] **Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any air pollution mitigation measures are planned as part of the A14 improvement work; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such measures. [311189]

Chris Mole: No specific air pollution mitigation measures are planned as part of the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement as no exceedences of air quality limit values are predicted at any property in the assessment of the scheme. Overall, an improvement in air quality is expected.

Airports: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent measures he has put in place to increase security at UK airports. [313724]

Paul Clark: Following the incident on Christmas day, the Government have directed airports to increase the proportion of passengers' baggage tested for traces of explosives, and to introduce explosive trace detection equipment at all UK airports by the end of the year. We have also brought into force new restrictions which tighten up security screening for transit passengers. Alongside this we intend to introduce more body scanners, the first to be deployed at Heathrow.

Aviation: Dual Nationality

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what arrangements are in place for the advance registration of air passenger details for holders of duel citizenship who book flights and leave a country on the passport of that country and arrive in the UK using a UK passport. [313024]

Paul Clark: Passengers' passport data are collected by airlines at or before the point of departure and transmitted to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) under the e-Borders programme. Discrepancies, such as different passport details, will be picked up by UKBA staff at the border and investigated as necessary.

Aviation: Security

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what provision his Department plans to make as an alternative to full body scanners for passengers with pacemakers or other implanted electronic medical devices. [313420]

Paul Clark: There are currently no plans to provide an alternative to body scanners for passengers with pacemakers or other implanted electronic medical devices. Our advice is that they are safe for passengers with such devices to use.

Dartford Railway Station

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department expects to provide in respect of the refurbishment of Dartford rail station. [313431]

Chris Mole: Dartford station will be receiving £1 million under the National Stations Improvement Programme: a £150 million scheme to enhance around 150 medium sized stations up to 2014. It is anticipated that this will be supplemented by some £6 million third party funding.

The Department for Transport has also received an application from Dartford station for £6,000 towards a £12,000 Access for All scheme, although the outcome will not be announced until later this year.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 90W, on departmental buildings, what the addresses of the 13 properties which are beyond economic repair are; for how long each has been empty; how much his Department paid in empty property council tax in respect of such buildings in 2008-09; and what plans there are to sell such properties for redevelopment. [312050]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency uses statutory powers to acquire property in connection with the operation, construction and maintenance of the Trunk Road and Motorway network. The Agency receives Blight Notices under the Town and Country Planning Acts which provide protection for property owners who cannot sell their properties because of planned road improvement schemes. When these notices are accepted, they require the Agency to purchase property in advance of its operational requirements. These properties are held while the scheme is in the programme and the route is protected from development. In some cases this can be for a number of years.

Where possible, properties are let until they are required for operational purposes or can be sold and their management is contracted out to a private letting and management agent.

Properties which are not cost effective to repair, but which are repairable, are maintained in their present condition because a future sale may take place. These properties are described as being beyond economic repair. Derelict properties that present a safety risk or will have an enhanced value by having planning permission for rebuild/development may be demolished if it is cost effective to do so.

The 13 properties beyond economic repair being held by the Highways Agency are detailed in the table. This shows their addresses, how long they have been vacant, and how much council tax has been paid in respect of each property for the financial year 2008-09.

The road schemes that affected Woodview and Park Hill Lodge are now complete. These properties did not need to be demolished and are now at the beginning of the Agency's disposal process. The other 11 properties are not available for sale.

The Agency obtains appropriate professional advice about valuation, method of sale and planning potential in respect of all its surplus properties. The Agency has not yet obtained that advice in respect of Woodview and Park Hill Lodge.

Property address	*Vacant period*	*Council tax 2008-09 (£)*	*Comments*
The Old Farmhouse, Ashflats Lane, Stafford	15 years 240 days	1,060.49	Highways Agency's managing agents have been instructed to seek planning permission for it to be demolished and rebuilt once it is sold.
4 Grange Farm Cottages, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge	9 years 233 days	737.39	Required to be demolished for the road scheme.
Darlaston County Kennels, Yarnfield Lane, Stone, Staffordshire	7 years 241 days	1,301.41	Highways Agency's managing agents have been instructed to seek planning permission for it to be demolished and rebuilt once it is sold.
Farm Manager's Cottage, Iridge Place, Hurst Green, East Sussex	2 years 274 days	0	Was to be let in current condition to the buyer of an adjoining Highways Agency property, this sale has just fallen through. Options currently being considered.
Bantony Manor House, Silverhill, East Sussex	6 years 108 days	0	Listed building—currently reviewing options and bidding for funds to bring back into use in next financial year.
May Day Farm, Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent	284 days	0	Listed building required to be demolished for the road scheme, demolition consent currently being applied for as part of scheme design.
Firholme Farm, Great North Road, Richmond	12 years 60 days	0	Required to be demolished for the road scheme but early demolition is currently being considered. Demolition for the scheme was imminent but this section of the scheme has been re-programmed.

Property address	*Vacant period*	*Council tax 2008-09 (£)*	*Comments*
South Lodge, Great North Road, Brompton-On-Swale, Richmond	6 years 240 days	0	Required to be demolished for the road scheme but early demolition is currently being considered. Demolition for the scheme was imminent but this section of the scheme has been re-programmed.
Woodview, Todhills, Carlisle, Cumbria	4 years 212 days	1,338.49	Currently being declared surplus and will be sold in its current condition.
382 Stockport Road West, Stockport	8 years 304 days	1,309.56	Not cost effective to repair, likely to be sold to local authority for their road scheme.
The Cottage, Lostock Hall Farm, Lostock Hall Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire	7 years 243 days	1,034	Not cost effective to repair, likely to be sold to local authority for their road scheme.
Canberra Farm Bean Leach Road, Stockport	2 years 62 days	1,410.11	Highways Agency's managing agents have been instructed to seek planning permission for it to be demolished and rebuilt once it is sold.
Park Hill Lodge Walton Road, Wetherby	12 years 152 days	0	Currently being declared surplus and will be sold in its current condition.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 5 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 90W, on departmental buildings, for what reasons there are 34 properties vacant in the disposal process. [312051]

Chris Mole: To ensure best value for the taxpayer the Highways Agency sells properties that are surplus to operational requirements with vacant possession whenever possible.

One property has just been sold. The remaining 33 properties that are currently vacant and in the disposal process are:

in the process of being formally declared surplus by the Agency, this includes obtaining and acting on planning/valuation and sales advice;

being offered to former owners under the Crichel Down Rules;

being offered for sale on the open market;

under offer awaiting legal completion of the sale.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether *(a)* his Depar[illegible] *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* associated non-depa[illegible]lic bodies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign [illegible] cutting carbon usage in 2010; and if he will publish the (i) criteria and (ii) research upon which such a decision will be taken. [313433]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is committed to delivering its share of the challenging targets which the Government have set for long term reductions in carbon usage on the Government Estate, but does not intend to sign up to the 10:10 campaign which is focussed on reductions this year.

The Department is involved in a number of initiatives and has several activities underway targeted at reducing carbon emissions.

Those activities include:

Carbon Reduction Commitment—due to start in April 2010;

The Carbon Trust Standard—attainment in the next financial year.

Carbon Budgets—the Department has worked closely with DECC, DEFRA and OGC to set the scope of transport emissions;

Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) Framework—the Department continues to work with OGC, and DEFRA, looking to extend the SOGE travel targets to include commuter travel and freight supply emissions;

Low Carbon Vehicles—the Department is supporting the trial of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles and the Government Car and Despatch Agency will trial a plug-in hybrid later this year;

Biomass and Combined Heat & Power Plant—these technologies are being considered as part of boiler replacement programmes in the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency;

Motorway Lighting—the Highways Agency is running a number of pilots where motorway lighting is switched off during certain off-peak, low usage periods.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys were provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in each year since 2007-08; and at what cost to the public purse. [313170]

Chris Mole: The details are as follows:

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10 to date*	
	Number	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*
Mobiles						
Ministers	2	144	1	72	0	0
Special advisers	1	68	0	0	0	0
Black Berrys						
Ministers	1	200	0	0	2	435
Special advisers	0	0	2	600	0	0

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307029]

Chris Mole: An element of the Department for Transport's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The wages and salary budget for 2009-10 is £546,266,100, of which non-consolidated performance payments represents an estimated range of 1.7 to 2 per cent.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* works of art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last two years. [312522]

Chris Mole: The information requested for the Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies is provided in the following table.

£

	(a) New furnishings		*(b) Art*		*(c) New vehicles*	
Organisational unit	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Central Department						
London Headquarters	287,683	504,646	1,162	0	0	0
Air Accident Investigation Branch	18,374	26,529	0	0	0	0
Rail Accident Investigation Branch	962	11,543	0	0	0	0
Marine Accident Investigation Branch	823	103,878	0	0	0	0
Driving Standards Agency	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	150,860	103,000
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	0	0
Government Car and Despatch Agency	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	1,315,000	1,004,000
Highways Agency	259,820	1,799,366	0	0	[3]18,983.687 [4]3,117,871	[3]624,832 [4]2,382,303
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	837,619	1,197,629
Vehicle Certification Agency	8,599	6,329	0	0	0	13,915
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	98,920	164,179	0	0	1,273,850	676,490

[1] Data not recorded as a specific cost category within the accounting system in use and only available at disproportionate cost.

[2] During 2007 to 2009 DVLA was in the process of refurbishing its Morriston site under a PFI contract. DVLA are unable to accurately provide a breakdown of the furnishing costs.

[3] Purchased.

[4] Leased.

Note:

The Highways Agency: Data at *(a)* include furniture, office refurbishments and fit-out costs for offices and regional control centres. The increase in the 2008-09 vehicle purchase costs is due to the Highways Agency entering into a four-year framework contract on 2 January 2008 with two suppliers; Romaquip and Schmidt UK, for the purchase of over 430 salt spreaders and snow ploughs to replace its current fleet. The costs for 2008-09 relate to the first-year order comprising of a total of 159 salt spreaders, all equipped with snow ploughs, and a further 40 additional snow ploughs. The vehicles used by Highways Agency Traffic Officers are leased. The figures quoted are the total cost of the vehicle leasing contracts for each of the two years. Leasing payments cover the cost of the vehicles, servicing, maintenance, tyres and windscreens, etc. Most vehicles are leased for 18 months, or 150,000 miles. There are now 207 Traffic Officer Vehicles in the fleet.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department *(a)* budgeted to spend and *(b)* spent from (i) the Total Annual Managed Expenditure budget and (ii) the Departmental Expenditure Limit budget for 2008-09. [312553]

2008-09

£ million

	Budget	*Outturn*
Annual managed expenditure	3,988	3,729
Departmental expenditure limit	14,105	12,701

(*a*) budgeted to spend and (*b*) spent from (i) the Annually Managed Expenditure budget and (ii) the Departmental Expenditure Limit budget for 2009-10. [312555]

Chris Mole: The information requested is set out in the following table:

2009-10

		£ million
	Budget	*Spend to date (end December 2009)*
Annually managed expenditure	4,092	2,778
Departmental expenditure limit	15,422	11,121

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department (*a*) budgeted to spend and (*b*) spent from the Annually Managed Expenditure budget on (i) Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) 1, (ii) DSO 2, (iii) DSO 3, (iv) DSO 4 and (v) DSO 5 for 2008-09. [312556]

Chris Mole: The in year budget for 2008-09 was not set against departmental strategic objectives. The outturn is set out in the following table:

Annually managed expenditure, 2008-09

	Outturn (£ million)
DSO 1	1,892
DSO 2	110
DSO 3	1,655
DSO 4	72
DSO 5	0
Total	3,729

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department (*a*) budgeted to spend and (*b*) spent from the Departmental Expenditure Limit budget on (i) Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) 1, (ii) DSO 2, (iii) DSO 3, (iv) DSO 4 and (v) DSO 5 for 2008-09. [312557]

Chris Mole: The in year budget for 2008-09 is not set against departmental strategic objectives. The spend to date is set out in the following table:

Departmental expenditure limit, 2008-09

	Outturn (£ million)
DSO 1	7,366
DSO 2	966
DSO 3	2,187
DSO 4	2,067
DSO 5	115
Total	12,701

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department (*a*) budgeted to spend and (*b*) spent to date from the Annually

Chris Mole: The in year budget is not set against Departmental Strategic Objectives. The spend to date is set out as follows:

Annually managed expenditure 2009-10

	Spend to date[1] (£ million)
DSO 1	1,423
DSO 2	85
DSO 3	1,274
DSO 4	-4
DSO 5	—
Total	2,778

[1] End December 2009.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department (*a*) budgeted to spend and (*b*) has spent to date from the Departmental Expenditure Limit Budget on (i) Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) 1, (ii) DSO 2, (iii) DSO 3, (iv) DSO 4 and (v) DSO 5 for 2009-10. [312559]

Chris Mole: The in year budget is not set against Departmental Strategic Objectives. The spend to date is set out as follows:

Departmental expenditure limit 2009-10

	Spend to date[1] (£ million)
DSO 1	6,373
DSO 2	762
DSO 3	2,445
DSO 4	1,518
DSO 5	23
Total	11,121

[1] End December 2009.

East Coast Main Line

Mike Wood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which organisation will undertake the consultation for the new East Coast Mainline timetable; when that consultation will start and end; and where consultation responses should be sent to. [313629]

Chris Mole: Public consultation on proposals for a new East Coast Main Line timetable is being carried out by East Coast—the current operator of those services. I understand that consultation has already commenced and will run until the end of February. Details of the proposals and the address for responses are available on East Coast's website at:

http://www.eastcoast.co.uk/

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the tendering process for East Coast rail services is likely to begin; and whether an option to continue Kings Cross to Glasgow via Newcastle services will be included in the tender. [313697]

Chris Mole: The Invitation to Tender for the new Intercity East Coast franchise will be issued in autumn 2010.

implemented in May 2011, which as currently proposed does include one service each way between Glasgow and King's Cross.

Under the proposed May 2011 timetable, most East Coast services to/from Scotland will operate to/from Edinburgh and Cross-country services between Penzance/Plymouth and Edinburgh will be extended to/from Glasgow, providing a two-hourly through service between Glasgow, Edinburgh, stations on the East Coast Main Line as far south as York, Leeds, Sheffield, the Midlands and south-west England.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the financial savings that would result from cancelling *(a)* the East Coast pilot fleet of the Inter-city Express Programme and *(b)* the Inter-city Express Programme East Coast depot. [314076]

Chris Mole: The 'pilot fleet' or Pre-Series Trains concept no longer applies.

The Department for Transport has appraised costs of East Coast Main Line depot provision. It is not appropriate to comment further as confidential commercial negotiations with Agility Trains are ongoing.

Green Bus Fund

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding from the £30 million of the Green Bus Fund announced in December 2009 has been provided to each recipient bus company; and what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs *(a)* created and *(b)* safeguarded (i) directly and (ii) indirectly through this expenditure. [314078]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the Green Bus Fund's winning bidder organisations, the number of buses each organisation intends to purchase with fund grant and the amount of grant offered to each organisation, which includes both bus operators and local authorities, by the Department for Transport.

Bidding organisations, number of buses to be funded and grant offered under the Green Bus Fund

Bidding organisation	*Number of buses to be funded*	*Grant offered (£)*
Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive	66	3,157,740
Transport for London	46	4,968,000
Stagecoach in Manchester	30	2,786,886.90
Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	26	2,351,506.30
Rotala plc	23	2,880,258
First West and North Yorkshire	22	1,705,322.40
Reading Transport Ltd.	20	2,166,500
West Midlands Travel Ltd.	20	1,271,450
First Manchester	14	1,013,109.02
Cumfybus Ltd	13	1,385,163
Mike de Courcey Travel Ltd.	13	750,000
Hatch Green Coaches	9	882,000
On a Mission Coaches	6	600,000
Johnsons (Henley) Ltd.	4	282,196
Nottingham City Council	4	392,400
R. Bullock & Co. (Transport) Ltd. (trading as Bullocks Coaches)	4	448,000
Durham County Council	3	294,300
Milton Keynes Council	3	300,000
Blueworks Taxis Ltd.	2	265,740
Ipswich Buses Ltd.	[illegible]	222,276
Bath and North East Somerset Council	1	126,990
Thames Travel (Wallingford) Ltd.	1	120,828
Total	349	30,011,185.62

The Department estimates that around 1,000 jobs will be safeguarded in the bus manufacturing industries as a result of the Green Bus Fund investment. The Department does not have an estimate of the number of jobs which will be created by the fund.

Southeastern Railway: Standards

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which recent assessment he has made of the performance of Southeastern Railway in discharging its obligations under its franchise agreement. [312668]

Chris Mole: The franchise agreement specifies performance standards in respect of:

The number of trains arriving at final destination within four minutes and 59 seconds of advertised time;

The number of delay minutes caused by Southeastern;

The number of train cancellations caused by Southeastern; and

Provision of specified train capacity.

Department for Transport officials review Southeastern's performance against the standards set out in the franchise agreement periodically. At the end of Rail Industry Period 9, Southeastern was performing within the target levels for each of these performance standards. The PPM Moving Annual Average figure of 91.1 per cent. for the end of the period was the best ever achieved on the Southeastern network. Officials are currently reviewing performance against Rail Industry Period 10, which was severely affected by the recent adverse weather.

M25: Tolls

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many bids have been received to purchase the M25 tunnels and bridge crossings of the Thames; [314092]

(2) on what date his Department sought expressions of interest for the purchase of the M25 tunnel and

(3) how many expressions of interest have been received for the purchase of the M25 tunnel and bridge crossings of the Thames. [314095]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not invited or received any expressions of interest or bids for the purchase of the Dartford Crossing.

As discussed in the Operational Efficiency Programme: Asset Portfolio published in December 2009, work to assess future capacity requirements and commercialisation options is ongoing.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* Essex county council and *(b)* Kent county council over the proposed sale of the M25 tunnels and bridge crossing of the Thames; if he will ensure that a proportion of the proceeds of any sale will be given to *(a)* Essex county council and the unitary authorities of Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* Kent county council; and if he will make a statement. [314093]

Chris Mole: At this early stage no formal discussions have been held with Essex county council and Kent county council on this specific issue.

Network Rail: Manpower

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that Network Rail maintains staffing levels adequate to maintain the railway system. [314083]

Chris Mole: Staffing is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail is required to deliver substantial efficiency savings for the operation, maintenance and renewal of the network over the next five years, set by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

The independent Office of Rail Regulation has ultimate responsibility for assessing that Network Rail's activities do not put at risk the safety of passengers and the work force.

Rail Safety and Standards Board: Research

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research the Rail Safety and Standards Board is undertaking; and how much that research *(a)* has cost to date and *(b)* is estimated to cost in total on completion. [314077]

Chris Mole: The strategic research programme was launched by the Department for Transport in September 2008. Details of the research being undertaken are published on the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) website at:

www.rssb.co.uk

The specific costs of research are a matter for the RSSB and the hon. Member should contact:

Len Porter
Chief Executive
Rail Safety and Standards Board
Block 2
Angel Square

The Minister announced that the cost to complete the strategic research programme is £15 million from spring 2009 and will run for five and a half years.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, on rail franchises, whether the consultation with key stakeholders in respect of the proposed rail franchise for InterCity East Coast will include *(a)* Peterborough City Council, *(b)* Opportunity Peterborough Urban Regeneration Company, *(c)* Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce, *(d)* Peterborough Environment City Trust and *(e)* Members of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [314030]

Chris Mole: The InterCity East Coast Franchise consultation document has been published on the Department for Transport's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

We welcome responses from all interested parties. Peterborough city council and Members of Parliament with constituencies in the InterCity East Coast franchise area are formal consultees and have been notified that the consultation is taking place, but it is also open to any other interested party to request a copy of the consultation document and respond to the consultation.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many rail franchises he expects to re-tender in each of the next four years. [314277]

Chris Mole: Three new franchises are expected to start in 2011, two in 2012, one in 2013 and one in 2014.

This assumes that the operators of franchises containing break points meet the continuation review criteria related to performance in the cases where these reviews have not yet taken place.

Railways: Glasgow

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the timetable is for the public consultation on the future of direct London Kings Cross to Glasgow via Newcastle rail services will be; and when he expects a final decision to be *(a)* made and *(b)* implemented. [313698]

Chris Mole: Public consultation on proposals for a new East Coast Main Line timetable, including services between King's Cross and Glasgow via Newcastle, is being carried out by East Coast—the current operator of those services. Consultation has already commenced and will run until the end of February. Details of the new timetable will be finalised during spring and summer 2010 for implementation in May 2011.

Railways: Olympic Games 2012

Bill Etherington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had access to Olympic football tournament matches at Hampden Park from the North East; and if he will make a statement. [313340]

Chris Mole: As part of a recasting of the East Coast Main Line timetable there is a change to the rail services between Edinburgh and Glasgow currently provided by East Coast. The number of services will remain the same as at present; however, from May 2011 they will be provided by Arriva Cross County.

While Department for Transport Officials are in regular contact with the Olympic Delivery Authority about public transport for the games, there have been no detailed discussions about this specific service.

Transport planning for the games, both in terms of infrastructure and services, is the responsibility of the Olympic Delivery Authority.

They consider both the likely demand for all Olympic events and the travel patterns of spectators. Where they believe additional capacity is required the Olympic Delivery authority are in discussions with the train operating companies to provide enhanced services during the games.

Railways: Public Sector

John Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the value for money of operating rail passenger services under public ownership; and if he will make a statement. [313112]

Chris Mole: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 501W.

Railways: Tickets

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the financial consequences arising from the introduction of main line station gating. [314280]

Chris Mole: The financial consequences of station gating schemes will be dependent on the level of fare evasion on a particular route, the yield per passenger from that station, and effectiveness of other revenue protection measures.

Gating schemes can also help reduce crime and increase the attractiveness of the service by increasing the visible presence of staff at a station, further increasing revenue.

Recent gating schemes have shown significant revenue increases, even when considering the capital costs of installation and increased staff costs.

Shipping: Yemen

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many vessels carrying *(a)* crude oil or refined products and *(b)* liquefied gas which berthed at UK ports in each of the last six months had berthed in Yemen en route to the UK; [313034]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the risks

Paul Clark: According to statistics reported to the Department for Transport no oil or liquid gas was shipped direct to the UK from Yemen in 2008, the latest period for which statistics have been published. The Department does not hold statistics on whether ships carrying such cargo from other sources might have called in the Yemen.

Both transport and other security procedures are in place as appropriate for all vessels berthing at UK ports.

Southend Airport: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the level of greenhouse gas emissions of *(a)* passenger and *(b)* cargo aircraft using Southend Airport in the last 12 months; what representations he has received on this matter since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [313150]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's latest assessment of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from passenger and freight aircraft using the UK's main airports is published in Annex G of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2009". This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

However airport-level assessments are only produced for the UK's 31 largest airports and therefore no assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from passenger and freight aircraft using Southend Airport is available. We have not received any representations on the issue since January 2009.

Southend Airport: Noise Pollution

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on aircraft noise at Southend Airport; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [313152]

Paul Clark: No recent representations have been received. However in compliance with EU requirements, Southend airport —in common with other major airports—is preparing a noise action plan in consultation with local communities. The development of the action plans provides a key opportunity for local consultation on noise issues.

The airport is currently conducting a public consultation on the draft plan. This consultation closes on 9 February. The airport will then consider consultation responses before submitting a final draft plan to the Secretaries of State for Transport and for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for consideration for formal adoption.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has commissioned on levels of noise pollution in the area surrounding Southend airport in the last three years. [313153]

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons the Highways Agency has installed a speed camera on the A46 southbound near the Carholme roundabout at Lincoln; and what criteria were used to determine the location of such a camera. [313421]

Chris Mole: The safety camera was installed in 1998 by Lincolnshire police following a number of accidents at the location. This was prior to the introduction of national guidance about the installation of safety cameras. The camera is now managed by the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and its operation is reviewed at six monthly intervals.

Transport: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with the Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People; and what steps his Department takes in order to meet its disability equality duty through its relationship with the Committee. [314062]

Mr. Khan: Department for Transport officials attended two of the regular meetings in December 2008 and June 2009 arranged by the Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People. The Chair of the Committee was also invited to, and attended, a meeting about enforcement of the Blue Badge scheme that was convened by the DFT in March 2009. Members of the Committee have been invited to a seminar on Blue Badge reform in June 2010.

The Department is meeting its disability equality duty by ensuring that disabled people are actively involved in and consulted on aspects of the Blue Badge reform programme. As well as the seminar that is being arranged for June 2010, members from some representative groups, for example, Mobilise, are participating in steering groups. Regular newsletters are issued to all stakeholders and officials continue to meet regularly with other representative groups, for example, the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, as well as with the Joint Committee on Mobility for Disable People.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dangerous Dogs: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs have been seized and put down in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent in the last 12 months. [313522]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Figures relating to the numbers of dogs seized and put down are not held centrally. Such information may be held by Kent police and the various local authorities.

Departmental Location

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment,

Dan Norris: The office move in 2007-08 saw DEFRA staff situated in 1a Page Street relocated to our principal offices at Nobel House and Ergon House. This move was facilitated by restructuring of the DEFRA business, including a reduction in staff numbers, and provided an opportunity to reduce property costs.

The Department did not complete a sustainability appraisal because it was satisfied that the reduction in the estate DEFRA occupied, together with better use of the space in the remaining offices would contribute positively over time to DEFRA's overall environmental performance.

DEFRA has now explicitly incorporated the sustainability appraisal into our criteria for location decisions, which also include business and financial considerations.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2008-09; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300896]

Dan Norris: An element of DEFRA's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against predetermined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The following tables provide details of the number of staff who received non-consolidated performance pay, the proportion of the total work force they represented, the total amount paid on non-consolidated performance payments paid and the largest single payment in 2008-09, reflecting performance in the 2007-08 performance year.

Table 1 covers staff at Grade 6 and below in core-DEFRA and those executive agencies covered by the core-Department's terms and conditions, i.e. Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

Table 1 also includes senior civil servants in core DEFRA and its executive agencies (Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Rural Payments Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and the Central Science Laboratory—which is now part of the Food and Environment Research Agency, which was created on 1 April 2009.)

Tables 2 to 5 cover staff at Grade 6 and below, employed in those executive agencies who operate delegated pay arrangements (Rural Payments Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and the Central Science

Table 1: core DEFRA

	Number, percentage, amount (£)
Number of staff who received non-consolidated performance pay	1,914
Proportion of work force (percentage)	40
Total amount of non-consolidated performance payments	3,072,554
Largest single non-consolidated payment	17,250

Table 2: Rural Payments Agency

	Number, percentage, amount (£)
Number of staff who received non-consolidated performance pay	958
Proportion of work force (percentage)	26
Total amount of non-consolidated performance payments	507,572
Largest single non-consolidated payment	800

Table 3: Veterinary Laboratories Agency

	Number, percentage, amount (£)
Number of staff who received non-consolidated performance pay	195
Proportion of work force (percentage)	15
Total amount of non-consolidated performance payments	47,409
Largest single non-consolidated payment	605

Table 4: Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

	Number, percentage, amount (£)
Number of staff who received non-consolidated performance pay	501
Proportion of work force (percentage)	[1]91
Total amount of non-consolidated performance payments	773,747
Largest single non-consolidated payment	5,405

[1] The agency operates a performance related pay scheme that links corporate and individual performance objectives to non-consolidated performance payments. It comprises a CEFAS corporate performance-related payment to all eligible staff, as well as an individual performance related payment element for a smaller proportion of staff, around 40 per cent. The figure quoted represents the percentage of staff who received a corporate non-consolidated performance award.

Table 5: Central Science Laboratory (which is now part of the Food Research Agency, created on 1 April 2009)

	Number, percentage, amount (£)
Number of staff who received non-consolidated performance pay	333
Proportion of work force (percentage)	48
Total amount of non-consolidated performance payments	264,280
Largest single non-consolidated payment	3,806

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment for senior civil servants in his Department was in cash terms in each of the last five years. [303071]

Dan Norris: An element of DEFRA's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against predetermined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The following table details the average and the maximum payment for a non-consolidated variable pay award, to senior civil servants, awarded under the DEFRA standard pay and performance management process for the five most recent performance years for which the relevant payments have been published in the Department's accounts. The data cover senior civil servants in core-DEFRA and its executive agencies (Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Rural Payments Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and the Food and Environment Research Agency.

	Performance year				
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Average value of non-consolidated performance payment (£)	4,000	6,000	7,500	8,500	9,000
The value of maximum non-consolidated payment (£)	20,350	15,147	15,640	17,250	15,000
Percentage of SCS paybill set aside for non-consolidated performance payments	5	6.5	7.6	8.6	8.6

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has

Dan Norris: I would refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant

EU Law

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations his Department has brought forward in the 2005 Parliament to meet obligations arising from EU law. [304176]

Dan Norris: Central records of statutory instruments made under specific powers have only been maintained by the Statutory Instruments Registrar since 2001. There are no central records maintained of "other regulations". Since that time my Department has made 445 statutory instruments to meet obligations arising from EU Law, under powers contained in the European Communities Act 1972

DEFRA has maintained internal statistics on statutory instruments for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, but not "other regulations", made in connection with obligations arising from EU law. These statistics do not distinguish between those made under the European Communities Act 1972 and other powers, or between those that implement EU Law and those otherwise connected with it (e.g. fees).

	Number
2007	100
2008	51
2009	58

Flood Control: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria Natural England has put in place in order to enable landowners to be paid through the single payment scheme to permit the introduction of flood alleviation schemes. [312983]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is no scope under the EU rules governing the single payment scheme for making payments for the introduction of flood alleviation schemes.

Nitrogen Oxide: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome was of the Government's application to the European Commission for a derogation from the nitrogen oxide limits around Heathrow Airport. [313720]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK Government, like most other EU member states, is working to develop its application to the European Commission to secure the additional time available to meet the limit values for nitrogen dioxide as provided for in the Directive on Ambient Air Quality (2008/50/EC). The application will need to set out, for those parts of the country not yet in compliance, including around Heathrow airport, how the limit values for nitrogen dioxide will be achieved by 2015.

WALES

Bosch

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on (i) the effects on employment in companies supplying the Bosch factory in Cardiff on the relocation of the factory outside of the UK and (ii) the effect of the possible closure of other Bosch factories in Wales. [313329]

Mr. Hain: I have had various discussions including with the First Minister and Unite and will continue to do so.

The Welsh Assembly Government are already working with Bosch to identify their Welsh suppliers and are offering support to those affected.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312830]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has six layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior.

Collective salaries for officials employed in each layer are not given, due to disproportionate costs.

However, salary ranges for each grade stipulated by the Ministry of Justice, of which the Wales Office is a part; and the senior civil service pay structure for the latest year—are provided as follows by way of estimate.

Grade	*Staff number*	*Pay range*
Pay band 2 (SCS)	1	£82,900-£162,500
Pay band 1 (SCS)	3	£58,200-£117,750
Grades 6/7 (band A)	11	£47,228-£66,695
SEO	8	£33,835-£44,300
HEO	12	£27,825-£35,704
EO	14	£22,755-£28,000

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 282-83W, on departmental pay, how many and what proportion of staff of his Department received *(a)* an annual performance bonus and *(b)* an in-year bonus in 2008-09; and who was responsible for awarding such bonuses. [313132]

Mr. Hain: In 2008-09:

(a) Five members comprising 9 per cent. of the total Wales Office staff total, each received an annual performance bonus. They were awarded by the Ministry of Justice in recognition of

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* named day questions in the last 12 months. [313650]

Mr. Hain: The information is as follows:

(a) Ordinary written questions—Total of 263 received, 242 answered within five sitting days (92 per cent.)

(b) Named day questions: Total of 38 received, 35 answered on the specified date (92 per cent.)

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the third report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Access

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will take steps to ensure that the number of people attending the Parliament Choir concert on 17 March does not affect the ability of constituents and other members of the public to obtain access to the House for meetings with hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [313919]

Nick Harvey: Access to the Palace of Westminster will be maintained throughout the Parliament Choir concert on 17 March 2010.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of Police Service of Northern Ireland police officers are Catholic. [313464]

Paul Goggins: As of 1 January 2010, the percentage of Catholic police officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland was 27.68 per cent.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of those who apply to join the Police Service of Northern Ireland as police officers are Catholic. [313465]

Paul Goggins: Since the inception of the PSNI there have been 15 recruitment campaigns. 37.33 per cent. of applicants for these competitions indicated their religious background as Catholic.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Catholics and *(b)* non-Catholics were recruited as police officers by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the most recent year for which figures are available. [313466]

SCOTLAND

Departmental Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties his Department owns; and what recent estimate he has made of the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313798]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not own any residential properties.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313654]

Ann McKechin: Between January to December 2009 the Scotland Office:

(a) answered 61 per cent. of 274 ordinary written questions within five sitting days,

(b) answered 93 per cent. of 29 named day questions on the day specified.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the 3rd report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 January, *Official Report*, column 1039W, on Arts Council England: finance, whether the methodology used to calculate the annual efficiency savings Arts Council England expects to make as part of its reorganisation process was approved by Ministers. [314065]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England contribute to the Department's value for money (VFM) programme, reported to Parliament in the DCMS autumn performance report and annual report. The methodology for the Government VFM programme is agreed by the Treasury and subject to review by the National Audit Office.

Arts Council England continually seek and deliver additional efficiency savings which are reported to the Department on a regular basis.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 January, *Official Report*, column 1038W, on Arts

Margaret Hodge: Ministers and officials meet regularly with Arts Council England and other stakeholders. Issues such as organisational restructuring are often discussed in these meetings

Departmental NDPBs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314251]

Mr. Simon: DCMS is responsible for 56 public bodies. These comprise: four public corporations, two public broadcasting authorities, one Executive agency, 47 non-departmental public bodies (36 Executive NDPBs, 10 advisory NDPBs and one tribunal NDPB), plus two unclassified bodies who receive Exchequer funding.

Information and statistical data on the DCMS bodies are contained in the DCMS Public Bodies Directory, which can be found on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/2009DCMSPublicBodiesDirectory.pdf

Since publication UK Anti Doping (an Executive NDPB) has been created.

Licensed Premises: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many premises had a 24 hour alcohol licence in each year since 2005. [313017]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department estimates the following number of premises licensed for the sale or supply of alcohol for 24 hours in their standard timings, in force on 31 March in each of the last three years in England and Wales (rounded to the nearest hundred):

Premises with 24-hour alcohol licences

	Number
2007	6,000
2008	7,100
2009	7,400

Source:
The Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Bulletin 2008-09.

On 31 March 2009, this made up 4 per cent. of all premises licences and club premises certificates authorised to sell alcohol. The possession of a 24-hour licence does not necessarily mean that the premises will choose to open for 24 hours.

Prior to the 2003 Act, hotels were authorised to sell alcohol to residents and their private guests only, outside of permitted licensing hours and were able to apply to keep this provision under 'grandfather rights'.

Local Press

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on local newspapers of local authority publications. [313892]

Mr. Simon: The Audit Commission published its

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff of *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* UK Sport and *(c)* the Olympic Delivery Authority plan to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and at what cost in each case. [312707]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England advise that they will not be sending representatives to the Winter Olympics.

UK Sport advise that three members of their organisation will be attending the Winter Olympics, at a cost of £21,824.84.

The Olympic Delivery Authority advise that two members of staff will be attending the observer programme for the games. The cost for accommodation and travel totals £7,726.90.

Swimming: Concessions

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget is for the PricewaterhouseCoopers evaluation of his Department's free swimming programmes; and when he expects the report to be published. [312802]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* As set out in the HM Treasury guidance 'The Green Book—Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government', the ability to judge how effectively Government resources have been expended is essential to their strategic long-term management. We have therefore commissioned a full, robust and independent evaluation of the £140 million Free Swimming Programme. This includes a detailed online survey of swimmers and non-swimmers to supplement questions placed on the Active People Survey, as well as case studies of participating and non-participating local authorities. The cost of the PricewaterhouseCoopers contract for the evaluation of the Free Swimming Programme is £379,000, less than 0.3 per cent. of the total cost of the programme. The contract is managed by Sport England on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

We expect two reports to be published—a 'year one' report in early summer 2010, and a final report in early summer 2011.

This analysis will provide useful information about the overall impact of the free swimming programme on swimming participation, as well as evidence about 'what works' in different contexts to drive increased swimming participation, enabling better targeting of future investment.

Tickets: Sales

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to regulate the sale of event tickets by third parties. [313749]

Mr. Simon: In addition to existing legislation governing the sale of tickets for football matches, the Olympic games and Commonwealth Games, the Department issued a Consultation on Ticketing and Ticket Touting

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what occasions the *(a)* Tourism Advisory Council, *(b)* inter-Ministerial Group on Tourism and *(c)* Tourism 2012 Ministerial Advisory Group have met since April 2009. [313020]

Margaret Hodge: The Tourism Advisory Council was established in April 2009 and to date has met four times, on 30 April, 1 July, 19 October and 18 January 2010.

The inter-Ministerial Group on Tourism has met twice since April 2009, on 5 May and 17 November.

Since April 2009 the work of the Ministerial Advisory Group was absorbed into the Tourism Advisory Council to ensure a strong link between the work to address recessionary conditions and Tourism 2012.

Tourism: Marketing

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to promote tourism in Britain. [311298]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain are responsible for marketing Britain overseas as a tourist destination, and VisitEngland are responsible for marketing England to British residents. Some of the recent initiatives that have been undertaken to attract tourists to Britain include the 'Value for Money' campaign for which VisitBritain and VisitEngland invested £6.5 million over the spring and summer 2009.

The overseas 'Value for Money' campaign involved an investment of £3.5 million and reached 18 markets in 21 languages and was undertaken in close co-operation with the airlines Easyjet and British Airways. VisitBritain's office in the USA also launched a campaign with Virgin Atlantic to stimulate travel to the UK which involved an investment of US$1 million.

The domestic 'Value for Money' campaign involved an investment of £3million in VisitEngland's 'Enjoy Every Minute, Enjoy England' campaign, which was designed to stimulate more day visits, short breaks and holidays in England. In the first nine months of 2009 visits by UK residents in England increased by 6 per cent.

In July 2009 England secured the Rugby League World Cup in 2013 and the Rugby Union World Cup in 2015. These sporting events will present many tourism opportunities, as will the recent announcement that there will be an additional Bank holiday during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. British tourism will also benefit from the launch last July of a competition to find the nation's first 'City of Culture'. 14 bids are now being considered. Becoming Britain's 'City of Culture' in 2013 will stimulate the city's visitor economy.

2012 also provides a powerful opportunity to promote tourism and we are working to ensure that we use the 2012 games to maximise the economic benefits for the British tourism industry.

In addition, the overall level of public sector investment in tourism from local, regional and national sources is likely to exceed £2 billion in the current spending review

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Solicitor-General how many staff in the Law Officers' Departments received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [300379]

The Solicitor-General: Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the reward package for staff. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives. They have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs, e.g. pensions. A close and effective link between pay and performance and increased use of variable pay is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service and the senior civil service (SCS) in particular.

Reward arrangements, including the criteria for non-consolidated performance pay, below the SCS, are delegated to individual Departments and agencies. For the SCS, Departments and agencies are responsible for their own reward arrangements within a framework set by Cabinet Office. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Tables covering the specific information requested have been deposited in the Library of the House. These tables detail as far as we are able to ascertain from our records the number of people who were eligible for and received a non-consolidated variable pay award, the average and maximum payment for a non-consolidated variable pay award, by civil service band, and the total amount of non-consolidated variable pay awards paid in each of the five most recent performance years for which the relevant payments have been published in the Department's accounts.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what average time the Law Officers' Departments took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313653]

The Solicitor-General: Data on the average length of time taken to answer written parliamentary questions are not routinely recorded by my Office, and it is not possible to provide a reliable estimate based on existing records.

Measures are currently being put in place to begin recording more detailed information on parliamentary questions for the current and future parliamentary sessions.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Cable: To ask the Solicitor-General when she plans to answer question 300379, on departmental pay.

DEFENCE

Animal Experiments

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment tests using animals were conducted by his Department in each of the last five years. [310652]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 14 January 2010]:* The MOD does not use animals as part of its equipment testing programme. The MOD conducts research involving the use of animals only where absolutely necessary and where there is currently no alternative. The research supports the welfare of the armed forces; it includes medical countermeasures, combat casualty care and environmental safety. All research involving the use of animals is subject to regular review and is carried out in strict accordance with the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

AWE Aldermaston

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the development of new nuclear weapons at Aldermaston. [313385]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As the 2006 White Paper 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994) makes clear, the current warhead design is likely to last into the 2020s. Decisions on how and whether we may need to refurbish or replace this warhead are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament.

Capenhurst Nuclear Power Station

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report,* columns 17-18W, on radioactive materials: imports, from which countries of origin the uranium which was enriched to military grade at the gaseous diffusion plant at BNFL Capenhurst was obtained; and what materials have been enriched at that plant since 31 March 2002. [313540]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our records indicate that all uranium used in the production of highly enriched uranium (HEU) for military purposes at the Capenhurst Gas Diffusion Plant was supplied prior to the 1960s and came mainly from the Congo. No HEU for military purposes has been produced at Capenhurst since 1962.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which departmental information technology projects have been outsourced to companies based overseas in the last three years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [313555]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on projects that have been outsourced is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the MOD's PFI commitments is published in our Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available on the MOD internet site:

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313664]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is not held in the format requested. However, during the 12 months up to 31 December 2009, 67 per cent. of ordinary written questions and 74 per cent. of named day written questions were answered on time.

European Defence Agency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which *(a)* initiatives and *(b)* programmes of the European Defence Agency the UK is participating; and what the cost to the UK is of each in 2009-10. [312652]

Bill Rammell: UK support of the EU military capability helps strengthen the Common Security and Defence Policy and Europe's contribution to NATO, both of which are in our national interest. The Ministry of Defence participates in the development of military capability through the European Defence Agency in the following areas:

- Capability Development Plan and capability improvement strategy;
- Collaborative Database strategy;
- Computer Information Systems (CIS) Information Exchange Requirements (IERs);
- Computer Network Operations;
- Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED);
- Counter Portable Air Defence Systems (C-MANPADS);
- Defence Data;
- European Armaments Co-operation strategy;
- European Defence Exports Market;
- European Defence Research and Technology (EDRT) strategy;
- European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) strategy;
- Ammunitions
- Depth and Diversity of Small/Medium Enterprises
- Future Air Systems
- Security of Supply, Offsets and the Level Playing Field;
- Helicopters availability;
- Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) architecture;
- Maritime Mine Countermeasures (MMCM);
- Maritime Surveillance Networking;
- Medical Support;
- Military Airworthiness and Certification Authorities (MAWA);
- Military aspects of a Comprehensive Approach;
- Networked Enabled Capabilities (NEC);
- Satellite Communications;
- Secure Management Infrastructure;
- Space Situational Awareness;
- Third Party Logistics Support;

The UK contributes to capability development in a variety of forms, including financial, equipment and systems testing and the sharing of knowledge, expertise

Defence Agency's budget, we are unable to accurately apportion specific individual costs to the UK. Our financial contribution to the Agency's budget for calendar year 2009 was £3.03 million.

European Defence Agency: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other contribution his Department has allocated to the (i) European Defence Agency and (ii) EU military staff in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11. [312656]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence's financial and personnel contribution to the European Defence Agency (EDA) and European Union Military Staff (EUMS) are provided in the following table. The Department's wider contributions to these organisations has included the loan or use of equipment and systems in support of testing and trials, and the provision of expert knowledge and advice through the UK's military operational experience. UK support of the EU military capability helps strengthen the Common Security and Defence Policy and Europe's contribution to NATO, both of which are in our national interest.

	European Defence Agency		*European Union Military Staff*	
Calendar year[1]	*£ million*	*Personnel*[2]	*£ million*	*Personnel*[2]
2008	3.11	7	0	18
2009	3.03	7	0	20
2010[3]	4.01	7	0	20

[1] EDA uses the calendar year as its financial year.
[2] Up to.
[3] Estimated figures for 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for North East Hampshire of 26 June and 14 August 2009 on Calthorpe Park Secondary School. [310921]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I apologise for the delay in the response. This was due to the large volume of letters this Department received on Afghanistan issues. A letter was sent on 26 January.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on its Green Helicopter initiative; and if he will make a statement. [313545]

Bill Rammell: There have been no recent discussions between UK Defence Ministers and the European Commission on its Green Helicopter initiative. We remain committed to minimising the environmental impact of our equipment wherever possible.

Somalia: Piracy

special forces to rescue Paul and Rachel Chandler; for what reasons that authorisation was given; what account was taken of the effects of the disclosure on the safety of the Chandlers; and if he will make a statement. [314090]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is long-standing policy not to comment on matters relating to UK special forces, as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Special Forces: Disclosure of Information

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on authorising public disclosure of information on operations by special forces; and if he will make a statement. [314091]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is the policy of the Ministry of Defence not ordinarily to comment on UK special forces. The UK's special forces are bound by a confidentiality contract that requires express prior authority in writing from the Ministry of Defence to be given before any disclosure can be made.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Premium: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners received a carer premium with their pension credit, housing benefit or council tax benefit in each social service authority area in Tyne and Wear in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2009. [313795]

Angela Eagle: The information is not available for housing benefit or council tax benefit. The available information for pension credit is in the following table.

Pension credit claimants in Tyne and Wear with carer's premium

	Number
May 2005	5,100
May 2009	7,120

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Child Benefit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the child benefit disregard in respect of housing benefit and council tax benefit introduced on 2 November 2009 is *(a)* awarded without claim or *(b)* claimed for; and if she will estimate the number of residents of Newcastle upon Tyne to whom this disregard applies. [313279]

Helen Goodman: Approximately 200,000 current reviewed their entitlement in November 2009. We estimate that a further 200,000 working families would be entitled to housing benefit and council benefit if they made a claim following the change in November 2009.

We are unable to provide an estimate of the number of residents in Newcastle upon Tyne to whom this disregard applies.

Cold Weather Payments

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the number of older people who do not claim the cold weather payment to which they are entitled. [313389]

Helen Goodman: Cold weather payments are paid automatically to all those who qualify for them and no one needs to make an application.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed the cold weather payment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception. [313497]

Helen Goodman: Cold weather payment information is available only by weather station, not by constituency, local authority or region. Information for Great Britain is provided in the following table. Information on cold weather payments in Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information is provided in the following table.

Cold weather payments for Great Britain

	Number of payments made
1991-92	3,827,000
1992-93	2,503,000
1993-94	2,064,000
1994-95	11,000
1995-96	7,252,000
1996-97	4,964,000
1997-98	55,000
1998-99	26,000
1999-2000	114,000
2000-01	3,535,000
2001-02	1,804,000
2002-03	1,675,000
2003-04	418,000
2004-05	213,000
2005-06	988,000
2006-07	402,000
2007-08	472,000
2008-09	8,416,000

Notes:

1. Since 1991-92 people have not had to claim to receive their entitlement to cold weather payments, as payments have been made automatically following a trigger.

2. The information provided is for the number of payments made. As some people may have received more than one payment in a winter, the number of payments made is generally greater than the number of people who received a payment.

3. The cold weather payment period runs from 1 November to 31 March for each year.

4. The number of payments has been rounded to the nearest 1,000

Crisis Loans

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what restrictions on the granting of crisis loans were introduced in 2009-10; what assessment has been made of the effects of those restrictions; and whether further restrictions are being considered. [313745]

Helen Goodman: Measures introduced during 2009 to ensure that Crisis Loans are targeted at those most in need of support from the cash-limited social fund budget have been to:

Prohibit a second Crisis Loan for living expenses for the same period, (not applied if a disaster or emergency not of customer's own making has arisen since the first award).

Require customers to attend a face to face interview when making their third or subsequent application for a Crisis Loan for living expenses in a rolling 12 month period (excluding those awaiting a decision on their benefit claim). In exceptional circumstances Crisis Loan Decision Makers can waive the need for the customer to attend an interview.

Limit the number of Crisis Loans for living expenses a customer can receive to three in a rolling 12 month period (not applied if a disaster or emergency not of customer's own making has arisen). This measure has been tested in the South West and East Midlands. There are no plans to roll it out nationally.

Following the national introduction of the measure to interview customers on their third and subsequent application on 30 October 2009, a formal evaluation into the effectiveness of this measure will be undertaken shortly.

No further changes are planned for this financial year.

Maternity and Paternity Pay

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on statutory *(a)* maternity and *(b)* paternity pay in each relevant year since 1997. [313569]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for Statutory Maternity Pay and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay.

The available information on spending on Statutory Maternity Pay is in the following table. Information on a longer time series of spending figures can be found at the following web link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/Alltables_Budget2009_Values.xls

Department for Work and Pensions expenditure on statutory maternity pay

	Statutory maternity pay (outturn) (£ million)
1997-98	502
1998-99	553
1999-2000	635
2000-01	648
2001-02	636
2002-03	724

Department for Work and Pensions expenditure on statutory maternity pay

	Statutory maternity pay (outturn) (£ million)
2006-07[1]	1,287
2007-08[1]	1,469
2008-09[1]	1,751

[1] Figures are estimated outturn for the years in question. The figures relate to Great Britain, and are for Government expenditure to balance employer recoveries from the national insurance fund.

Source:

http://research.dw[illegible]uk/asd/asd4/ Alltables_Budget200[illegible]_Values.xls

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills publishes its expenditure on Statutory Paternity Pay as part of its Annual Report which can be found here:

www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/annual-spending/page25111.html

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills expenditure on Statutory Paternity Pay

	Statutory paternity pay (£ million)
2003-04	20.0
2004-05	37.8
2005-06	50.0
2006-07	6.7
2007-08	42.8

Note:

Figures also includes the Department's spend on Statutory Adoption Pay.

Source:

Department for Business Innovation and Skills Annual Reports

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to ensure that pensioners who have lost all or a greater part of their pension due to failed occupational pension schemes are fully compensated under the new Financial Assistance Scheme regulations, with particular reference to *(a)* indexation reflecting that provided by their original schemes and *(b)* backdating to cover normal retirement age. [313442]

Angela Eagle: On 17 December 2007, the Government announced a major extension to the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). This provided for people to be paid 90 per cent. of their accrued pension, revalued to the date of entitlement, subject to a maximum limit, which is currently £29,386. Payments are made from the member's normal retirement age (subject to a lower age limit of 60 and an upper limit of 65).

Payments based on rights accrued since April 1997 are increased in line with inflation, subject to a 2.5 per cent. cap. This is the same as occupational pension schemes are required to provide by legislation and is also in line with what the Pension Protection Fund provides.

No payments are made for any period before 14 May 2004, when the Financial Assistance Scheme was announced.

The Government believe this is a generous and appropriate final settlement.

Post Office Card Account

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of benefit payments of each type were paid into post office card accounts in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland, *(e)* each English region and *(f)* each parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [313571]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* The information has been placed in the Library.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the number of children in relative poverty who will not be in relative poverty in January 2012. [311770]

Helen Goodman: Many of the policy initiatives announced since Budget 2007 have not yet shown up in the child poverty figures. Although we do not have an estimate for January 2012, measures announced since Budget 2007, including the pre-Budget report 2009, are estimated to reduce the number of children in poverty by around 550,000.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners *(a)* aged 80 years and over have claimed the £400 winter fuel payment and *(b)* aged 60 years and over have claimed the £250 winter fuel payment in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the United Kingdom in each winter since 2007-08. [313486]

Angela Eagle: The information requested on the number of claims is not available. Most customers do not need to claim the winter fuel payment as the majority of payments are sent out automatically by the Department.

The number of payments made for winters 2007-08 and 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available) is in the following table:

	2007-08		2008-09	
	Number of customers aged:		Number of customers aged:	
	60-79 years	80 and over	60-79 years	80 and over
Jarrow	13,990	3,420	14,170	3,550
South Tyneside	25,490	6,580	25,880	6,720
North East	434,660	99,800	443,830	101,770
Great Britain[1]	9,664,550	2,424,190	9,886,690	2,470,690

[1] Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

Notes:

1. Households with those aged 60-79 received £250 and those aged 80 and over received £400. These payments were shared between qualifying individuals in each household.
2. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
4. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Winter Fuel Payments: Ashford Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in Ashford constituency are in receipt of the winter fuel allowance; and how much her Department paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2009. [313520]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available), 24,310 people received a winter fuel payment in Ashford at a cost of £5.1 million.

Notes:

1. Payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

JUSTICE

Industrial Health and Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to departmental staff on stress recognition and management. [313982]

Mr. Wills: Advice and guidance on stress recognition and management is available to all staff on the Ministry of Justice intranets. I will make arrangements for the guidance material to be placed in the Library.

Bail and Accommodation Support Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many residents of ClearSprings properties have had their residency terminated following a breach of terms of residency in each month since June 2007; [308787]

(2) how many residents have been received into ClearSprings properties in each month since June 2007. [308788]

Maria Eagle: The number of residents, to 30 November 2009, who have breached their terms while accommodated by ClearSprings for the period of their bail or Home Detention Curfew (HDC) licence and the number accommodated is shown in the following table. Residents accommodated through this service are subject to a level of surveillance and reporting to a support officer which does not apply to others on bail and HDC living privately in the community.

		Number
	Breached	*Total accommodated*
2007		
June	1	1
July	3	10
August	13	31
September	13	38
October	20	59
November	38	114
December	42	108
2008		
January	41	125
February	53	128
March	42	127
April	50	157
May	53	156
June	56	146
July	49	164
August	42	161
September	47	157
October	50	198
November	56	166
December	49	169
2009		
January	59	153
February	59	163
March	48	190
April	39	175
May	51	152
June	57	178
July	60	186
August	41	159
September	63	182
October	64	202
November	66	181

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on bottled drinking water in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [313186]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry's accounting records do not specifically record expenditure on bottled water. To identify relevant expenditure would require examination of thousands of individual invoices, many held locally within the courts, prison and probation systems, and would incur disproportionate cost.

It has, however, been possible to identify expenditure on bottled water for Ministry of Justice headquarters for the first two full financial years since it was established which is as follows:

	£
2008-09	1,382
2007-08	1,364

The expenditure relates to bottled water used for water coolers and dispensers. The cost includes sanitisation and maintenance of these devices. Bottle-fed water dispensers are usually found in small local offices or old premises that are due to be vacated. Water dispensers are gradually being replaced by mains-fed water filtration systems across the Ministry's estate. This process is aligned with the Ministry's strategy to rationalise and modernise its national and regional estate to provide more economical, fit for purpose accommodation which is environmentally sustainable.

The Ministry no longer provides bottled water when catering for meetings or events within its headquarters buildings.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for such activities in 2009-10. [309906]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice costs for hosting the Department's websites across the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the budget allocation for 2009-10 are as follows:

	£
2007-08	1,625,160
2008-09	1,410,000
2009-10 (forecast)	1,410,000

These figures include the cost of website hosting and infrastructure for www.justice.gov.uk and a number of other internal and external web sites, services and applications. Costs cannot be separated out for the departmental website (justice.gov.uk) as the contract covers parts of the wider web estate of the Ministry. External expenditure on other aspects of non-ICT website support for www.justice.gov.uk including strategy and planning, design and build, content provision and testing and evaluation is included in the following figures.

	£
2008-09	111,773
2009-10 (forecast)	150,000

Comparable figures are not available for 2007-08 because of organisational and accounting changes.

The expenditure year to date (to end of December 2009) is £71,728 and the Ministry does not expect to spend the full budget allocation.

As there is more use of the internet for Government services, we need to make information about the work of the Department more readily available to citizens and the media, enhancing transparency and accountability for what we do. All our internet users—who include legal practitioners, academics and researchers—are able to use the range of resources published on our website either to work more efficiently within the justice system or to engage with the Department's day-to-day work and to contribute to our published consultations on proposals for change. Investment in web services aims to enhance the user experience, providing easier access to MOJ information and services and delivering in a way that meets audience needs.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys have been provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in his Department since the financial year 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [313177]

Mr. Wills: The number of BlackBerry devices and mobile telephones currently in use by Ministers and special advisers is as follows:

	Ministers	*Special advisers*
BlackBerrys	5	2
Mobile Telephones	2	—

Included in the above figures is one BlackBerry that was allocated to a Minister in June 2009, and one replacement BlackBerry that was provided to a special adviser since April 2009. Both devices were reallocated from a central pool so there was no additional purchase cost. There have been no new mobile telephones provided to Ministers or special advisers since April 2009.

The cost of using these BlackBerry devices and mobile telephones has been identified from available records, for the period April to November 2009, which is the latest period for which figures are available. The cost includes call charges, line rental, equipment hire, and telecom support costs. Details are as follows:

Ministers: £2,219.00

Special advisers: £794.00.

These figures do not include the support costs for the Department's BlackBerry service as it would not be possible to identify the costs on an individual basis without incurring disproportionate cost.

Family Justice Review

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what opportunities he expects there to be for members of the public to contribute to the review of the family justice system in England and Wales announced on 20 January; when the review panel will be appointed; whether it will hold public hearings; and whether its proceedings will be *(a)* published and *(b)* subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [313542]

Bridget Prentice: Hearing the public's views will be an essential part of the Family Justice Review. The decision on how the public will contribute, whether there will be any public hearings and whether their proceedings will be published, will be taken by the review panel. The review panel will be named shortly. All information relating to the review will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Filing Store Operations: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* proposals to outsource the filing store operations at Coventry and *(b)* alternative proposals for the future of those operations. [313417]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry currently holds its archived year files in 10 file stores across the country, of which Coventry is one. Outsourcing of this activity is one of the proposals currently subject to consultation within Land Registry. All responses to the consultation, including alternative options for achieving efficiencies, will be considered. It is too early to say what the impact would be on any particular file store if the outsourcing goes ahead, but final decisions to outsource will only be taken where it is clear that this will deliver value for money.

Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305666]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice accounting systems do not separately identify expenditure on hotel accommodation.

To provide the relevant information at the level of detail requested for the entire Ministry would involve the disproportionate cost of collating data from our designated travel management companies as well as manual examination of large volumes of records held locally by the Ministry of Justice headquarters and its four executive agencies (the National Offender Management Service (incorporating the National Probation Service), Her Majesty's Court Service, Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian).

The majority of hotel bookings are arranged through travel management companies employed by the Ministry to obtain best value for money options. All other expenditure is incurred only on production of valid receipts.

All hotel bookings by Ministers and civil servants are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

The annual departmental resource accounts disclose expenditure on "travel, subsistence and hospitality" in notes 10 (administration expenditure) and 11 (programme expenditure). Resource accounts were published by the Ministry of Justice for 2007-08 and 2008-09 and prior to that by the Ministry's predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs. All published accounts can be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/

Analysis of published totals to identify amounts relating specifically to hotels would incur disproportionate cost.

Land Registry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations his Department has received on the Land Registry accelerated transformation programme. [313418]

Mr. Wills: Since the publication of its consultation document on 22 October 2009, Land Registry has received responses from many interested parties including customers, MPs and members of staff. I have also met some MPs and staff representatives to discuss the proposals. Following the closure of the consultation on 29 January 2010 all of the responses will be carefully considered.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of land not registered with the Land Registry; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the Land Registry accelerated transformation programme on the prospects for registration of such land. [313419]

Mr. Wills: Over 70 per cent. of land in England and Wales, including most urban land, is now registered with Land Registry in about 21 million registered titles. The registered area has increased from 45 per cent. in 2004, when data on geographic coverage first became available. This growth is principally attributable to Land Registry's strategy of persuading landowners of the benefits of voluntary first registration. A large percentage of the land that remains unregistered is in rural areas or includes large estates or public landholdings.

One of Land Registry's strategic objectives is to "Extend the benefits of Land Registration by creating a comprehensive land register". The accelerated transformation programme proposals assume that Land Registry will continue to dedicate resources to voluntary registration and set challenging targets annually to drive the achievement of the comprehensive register.

Land Registry: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of the Land Registry office in Coventry. [313416]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry published their Accelerated Transformation Proposals on 22 October 2009. These proposals are subject to a period of public consultation which ends on 29 January 2010. Under the current proposals, Land Registry would retain an office in Coventry. The proposals assume a further review of estates requirements in 2011. The future of the Coventry office would be considered as part of that review.

Legal Complaints Service

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of the consideration of a complaint by the Legal Complaints Service in each of the last five years. [313372]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Complaints Service (LCS) is wholly funded by the Law Society and not the public purse.

The Legal Services Act 2007 introduces a new way of handling complaints and establishes the Office for Legal Complaints to provide a single point of entry for all service complaints about providers of regulated legal services. Under current plans, the OLC will become fully operational by the end of 2010. The set-up costs and running costs will by funded initially by the Government through grant in aid and recovered through a levy on the legal sector, so that there will be no cost to the public purse.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average the Legal Complaints Service took to consider a complaint in each of the last five years. [313376]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Complaints Service (LCS) has provided the following information:

	Average time for consideration of a complaint (days)
2009	93
2008	97

	Average time for consideration of a complaint (days)
2007	106
2006	131
2005	147

Monarchy: Succession

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice upon which the Government rely in asserting that the provisions of Section 1 of the Act of Settlement 1700 do not give illegitimate children the right of succession to the Crown. [313283]

Claire Ward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Wills) gave on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 704W and the answer I gave on 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Offenders: Social Security Benefits

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many adults aged between 18 and 24 years old who entered custody in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 were receiving state benefits at the time of entering custody. [313535]

Maria Eagle: Of those 18-24 year old offenders sentenced to custody during 2007, 3,426 were subsequently recorded as having 'state benefits' as their sole or most significant source of income before sentencing. The corresponding figure for those sentenced during 2008 was 3,255. The information was recorded within the Offender Assessment System which is used with 18-20 year old prisoners and with older prisoners serving sentences of more than 12 months. The numbers of assessments used to produce the 2007 and 2008 figures were 7,345 and 7,132 respectively. As the figures are drawn from administrative IT systems, they are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

No figure is provided for 2009 as the data have not been fully collated.

Prisoners: Compensation

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value was of each of the 10 largest *(a)* court-ordered payments and *(b)* out of court settlements made to prisoners by (i) the National Offender Management Service and (ii) Her Majesty's Prison Service in the last five years; and what the nature of the claim was in each such case. [313117]

Claire Ward: The 10 largest court awards and out of court settlements made as a result of civil litigation brought by prisoners or former prisoners against the Prison Service/custodial side of the National Offender Management Service for the period 1 April 2004 to 25 January 2010 are detailed in the following table. Such claims are only settled on the basis of strong legal advice from Prison Service's appointed solicitors and/or barristers. Taking indefensible cases through to court only results in more expense to the public purse. Therefore, NOMS loses very few prisoner cases at court and this accounts for the difference in the figures between court awards and out of court settlements. Details of claims against individual probation boards/trusts are not recorded centrally and to provide the information would require looking through the records of each individual board or trust which would entail disproportionate costs.

Type of claim	*Out of court settlement (£)*
Personal Injury	2.8 million
Medical Negligence	1.14 million
Personal Injury	575,000
Personal Injury	472,000
Medical Negligence	375,000
Medical Negligence	270,000
Medical Negligence	255,000
Medical Negligence	163,000
Medical Negligence	150,000
Personal Injury	150,000
Personal Injury	21,778
Claim by Estate	20,000
Breach of Human Rights	17,729
Breach of Human Rights	15,314
Damage/loss of Property	9,050
Personal Injury	9,000
Damage/loss to Property	7,000
Damage/loss to Property	4,367
Personal Injury	3,500
Personal Injury	3,210

Prisoners: Death

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners have died subsequent to a recommendation for parole and before their release in the last five years. [313210]

Maria Eagle: This information is not held centrally. To quantify the number of prisoners who may have died following a recommendation for parole but before their release would require a manual check of individual prisoner records. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* visitors, *(b)* staff and *(c)* prisoners were caught attempting to smuggle illegal drugs into each prison in England in each of the last five years; and what steps have been taken in respect of those so caught. [303548]

Maria Eagle: The data are not available in the form requested.

It is the National Offender Management Services' policy to report to the police all incidents where drugs are found in the possession of visitors. National data for the number of visitors arrested is given in the following table.

	Number of visitors arrested[1]
2004-05	439
2005-06	429
2006-07	374
2007-08	424

	Number of visitors arrested[1]
2008-09	460

[1] These figures include all incidents, the majority will be drug related.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit. To disaggregate into individual prison data would require an investigation into each regional return for the past five years and would be at disproportionate cost.

Prisons often take action against visitors based on suspicion, and before they are caught in possession of drugs, including visit bans, closed visits or closely supervised visits.

Data on the number of prison officers caught attempting to smuggle illegal drugs into an establishment are held locally and could, only be obtained by consulting all prisons across England and Wales. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners caught attempting to smuggle illegal drugs into prison are referred, to the police. Data on the number of prisoners caught attempting to smuggle illegal drugs into an establishment are held locally and could be obtained only by consulting all prisons across England and Wales. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children have been admitted to a mother and baby unit in *(a)* a prison and *(b)* Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre in each of the last 10 years. [313208]

Maria Eagle: Historic information on the number of young women under 18 admitted to mother and baby units in prisons and young offender institutions (YOIs) is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Rainsbrook Mother and Baby Unit for young women under 18 opened in 2006. The following table shows the number of young mothers and pregnant young women who have been accommodated in the unit:

	Number
2006	5
2007	6
2008	3
2009	4
Total	18

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

The Youth Justice Board reports that since the opening of the Rainsbrook Mother and Baby Unit, there has been only one occasion on which a young mother or pregnant young woman has been placed in an over-18 young offender institution. In 2007, a young mother was placed in Askham Grange YOI just prior to her 18th birthday, to enable her to have both her children with her.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women prisoners in mother and baby units are being held at locations more than 50 miles from their home address. [313209]

Maria Eagle: As at 22 January 2010, the latest date for which figures are available, 22 women in mother and baby units were held more than 50 miles from their home area.

All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. About 60 per cent. of prisoners (both male and female) are shown to have given a recognised address. If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine distance from home, including next-of-kin address and committal court address.

Prisons: Security

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to identify potential ligature points in cellular accommodation in *(a)* HM Prison New Hall and *(b)* other prisons. [313197]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has a broad based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This requires identifying prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm. Reducing access to potential means of suicide or self-harm at all prisons, including New Hall, forms part of the care of people considered to be at risk. This includes, where necessary, the removal of any personal possessions and furniture in cells which may be used in an act of self-harm.

In addition, most prisons contain safer cells, which are designed to make the act of suicide or self-harm by use of ligature difficult. This is achieved primarily by reducing ligature points as far as possible. Anti-ligature furniture and fittings are installed as an integral part of the cell fabric.

However, there are a wide range of objects in cell which may be used as ligature points (such as clothing, essential furniture, washing facilities, etc.) which it is not possible to remove for decency reasons.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to replace rigid bars in shower doors and frames in cells in *(a)* HM Prison The Mount and *(b)* other prisons. [313198]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has a broad based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This requires identifying prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm. Reducing access to potential means of suicide or self-harm at all prisons, including HMP The Mount, forms part of the care of people considered to be at risk.

Potential ligature points in the shower units in cells at HMP The Mount have been negated by the installation of UPVC panels. In more recent accommodation of a similar type in other prisons, velcro curtains have been fitted to a collapsible rail in shower units.

Decisions whether or not to redesign shower cubicles, are taken locally by individual governors. A central record is not held of prisons which have had this type of modification and these details can be obtained only by contacting each individual establishment at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Standards

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the high level evaluation of the introduction of the standardised core day in prisons in England and Wales. [313200]

Maria Eagle: I have placed the high level evaluation of the introduction of the standardised core day in prisons in England and Wales in the Library of the House.

Probation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of time probation staff spend in face to face contact with offenders; and if he will make a statement. [313069]

Maria Eagle: Ministers are committed to increasing the amount of time probation staff spend in contact with offenders through reducing the bureaucratic demands on front line staff and tailoring the level of intervention to the risk which the offender presents.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not routinely report on the proportion of working time spent in face to face contact with offenders. In December 2008, NOMS undertook a survey, over a one week period, of a small sample of Offenders Managers. It indicated that staff undertaking this role spent 24 per cent. of their time in direct contact with offenders.

The survey did not cover probation staff responsible for delivery of Community Payback, Accredited Programmes or working within Approved Premises. The proportion of time spent in face to face contact with offenders in these areas of work is considerably higher.

Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to the Slough constituency, the effects on Slough of the policies and actions of his Department and its predecessors since 2000. [311981]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around 9 million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Slough, they are available for the Thames Valley. They show that the total number of offenders sentenced annually, was 44,691 in 2000 and 42,353 in 2007, the latest period for which such information is available.

Likewise, the number of offences brought to justice for the Thames Valley area increased from 31,000 in 2001-02 (the earliest period since which such data have been compiled) to 51,400 in 2007-08.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Slough. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Thames Valley decreased from 62,880 in 2000 to 54,090 in 2007.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three-month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Slough was 8.16 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a reduction in reoffending of 1.99 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing supervision by the Probation Service in Thames Valley, was 3,853 in 2000 and 4,783 in 2008.

44,212 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of Thames Valley HM Courts Service (HMCS) area in 2008, compared to 49,696 in 2000. In respect of family law, there were also 3,573 private law applications and 218 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 3,422 and 282 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

Vauxhall

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Vauxhall constituency, the effects on the constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [310329]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Vauxhall, they are available for London. They show an increase in the total number of offenders sentenced annually from 202,478 in 1997 to 226,891 in 2007, the latest period for which such information is available.

Likewise, the number of offences brought to justice for the London area increased from 122,500 in 2001-02 (the earliest period since which such data have been compiled) to 230,000 in 2007-08.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Vauxhall. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts by the Metropolitan police increased from 260,328 in 1997 to 265,709 in 2007.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Lambeth was 8.05 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a reduction in reoffending of 6.88 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing supervision by the Probation Service in London was 16,019 in 1997 and 22,233 in 2008.

158,440 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of London Civil and Family HM Courts Service (HMCS) area in 2008, compared to 263,305 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. In respect of family law, there were also 15,512 private law applications and 870 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 11,684 and 1,095 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to Question 303548, on drugs in prisons, tabled on 26 November 2009. [313115]

Maria Eagle: I replied to the hon. Member's question today. I apologise for the delay.

Youth Custody: Meals

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* other units juveniles are accommodated securely and meals are taken communally. [313204]

Maria Eagle: Young people eat in groups in all secure training centres and in those secure children's homes in which the Youth Justice Board places young people. In under-18 young offender institutions, practice varies between establishments. Only one establishment, the Josephine Butler Unit at Downview, reports that no meals are eaten communally.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisons, *(b)* young offender institutions, *(c)* secure training centres and *(d)* other units in which juveniles are accommodated securely employ a nutritionist. [313205]

Maria Eagle: A nutritionist is employed at Huntercombe young offender institution. Secure training centres and secure children's homes do not directly employ nutritionists. However, nutritionists' services are accessed, via establishments' healthcare provision, to assist the needs of individual trainees and to obtain general advice and guidance.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prosecutions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk have been brought in each criminal justice area since 2004; and how many resulted in a conviction in each year. [313622]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 January 2010]*: Available information on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the sale of alcohol to a drunk person, under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003, by police force area, for 2006 and 2007 (latest available) is given in table 1.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) of £80 may also be issued by the police for certain alcohol related offences such as the sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk. The numbers of persons issued with a PND for this offence, which was added to the scheme in April 2005, by police force area, from 2005 to 2007 are shown in table 2.

Data for 2008 will be available very soon.

Table 1: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offence of sale of alcohol to a drunk person[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2006-07[2,3,4]

	Proceeded against		Found guilty	
Police force area	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Cheshire	—	1	—	—
Cleveland	—	1	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	2	—	—
Durham	—	1	1	—
Lancashire	1	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	2	—	—
Thames Valley	1	—	1	—
Total	2	7	1	1

[1] Under the Licensing Act 2003—section 141.

[2] Only those areas for which data have been recorded are included in the table.

[3] Figures given are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.
[Ref: 258-09]

Table 2: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a drunk person[1] under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003, by police force area, England and Wales, 2005-07[1,2]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	1	2

Table 2: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a drunk person[1] under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003, by police force area, England and Wales, 2005-07[1, 2]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cheshire	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—
Cleveland	1	—	4
Cumbria	—	6	1
Derbyshire	—	1	1
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	2
Dorset	—	1	—
Durham	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	3	7
Hampshire	1	1	3
Hertfordshire	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	1
Kent	2	1	4
Lancashire	4	4	6
Leicestershire	8	2	4
Lincolnshire	1	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	8
Metropolitan Police	3	7	18
Norfolk	—	—	1
Northamptonshire	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	2
North Yorkshire	—	1	—
Nottinghamshire	—	1	1
South Yorkshire	1	—	—
Staffordshire	—	4	2
Suffolk	—	—	2
Surrey	—	1	—
Sussex	7	1	2
Thames Valley	—	—	2
Warwickshire	—	—	—
West Mercia	2	—	3
West Midlands	—	1	—
West Yorkshire	1	1	1
Wiltshire	—	3	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—
North Wales	—	5	1
South Wales	—	—	1
British Transport Police	—	1	—
Total	32	47	81

[1] Sale of alcohol to a drunk person was added to the PND Scheme with effect from 4 April 2005.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit
[IOS 258-09]

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on antisocial behaviour, (1) which 62 areas have been identified as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership priorities; [303781]

(2) how much additional funding his Department is providing to the 62 priority areas to tackle antisocial behaviour. [303783]

Alan Johnson: The 62 priority areas are those where perceptions of antisocial behaviour are above 25 per cent. They are:

Ashfield
Barking and Dagenham
Barnsley
Basildon
Bassetlaw
Beckley
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Bolsover
Bradford
Brent
Broxbourne
Burnley
Camden
Cannock Chase
Doncaster
Ealing
Enfield
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Islington
Knowsley
Lambeth
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Mansfield
Medway
Middlesbrough
Newham
North East Lincolnshire
Nottingham
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Oldham
Pendle
Portsmouth
Reading
Redbridge
Rochdale
Rotherham
Salford
Sandwell
Slough
Southampton
Southwark
St. Helens
Stoke-on-Trent
Swale
Tameside
Tamworth
Thanet
Thurrock

Tower Hamlets
Wakefield
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Wellingborough
Wigan

Home Office Delivery Managers will be visiting every priority area to work with them to assess problems and direct local action plans. These will be monitored on a regular basis and improvements are expected by March 2010. These improvements will be expected to be made within the existing resources allocated to every area under the area-based grant.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* UK in each year since their inception. [313098]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued on application to magistrates courts and county courts became available on 1 April 1999. ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown court and at magistrates courts became available on 2 December 2002. The available information is shown in the table.

Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of ASBOs issued only counts those ASBOs issued by courts in England and Wales and is not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued all courts[1] in the North East Government Office Region[2] (GOR) and England and Wales, 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007

Area	*Apr1999[3] Dec.2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	22	22	29	55	134	268	176	122
England and Wales	241	350	427	1,349	3,479	4,122	2,705	2,299

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates' courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown Court and at magistrates' courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002.

[2] The North East Government Office Region consists of the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria Criminal Justice System (CJS) areas.

[3] From 1 April 1999.

Notes:

1: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

2: Previously issued data have been revised.

Prepared by Justice Statistics Analytical Services.

Crime: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol-related incidents were recorded by each basic command unit of Hampshire Constabulary in each of the last five years. [312725]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* The data requested on incidents are not collected centrally. However, the British Crime Survey provides figures for violent incidents where the victim believes the offender was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This information is provided in the following table:

Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, BCS, 1995 to 2008-09

Percentages and numbers (Thousand)

											Statistically significant	
	1995	*1997*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*1995 to 2008-09*	*2007-08 to 2008-09*
Proportion of all violent incidents[1]												
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:[2]												
Alcohol	41	43	48	45	51	49	45	46	46	47	•	—
Drugs	16	18	21	20	20	18	23	17	19	17	—	—
Unweighted	1,078	915	1,285	1,397	1,398	1,455	1,512	1,658	1,477	1,449	—	—
Number of violent incidents (Thousand)												
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:[2]												
Alcohol	1,656	1,457	1,244	1,177	1,299	1.105	1.023	1,087	971	973	•	—
Drugs	655	603	549	544	474	390	531	398	390	334	•	—

Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, BCS, 1995 to 2008-09

Percentages and numbers (Thousand)

	1995	1997	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Statistically significant 1995 to 2008-09	Statistically significant 2007-08 to 2008-09
Unweighted	16,348	14,947	32,824	36,479	37,931	45,120	47,729	47,138	46,903	46,220	—	—

[1] 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

[2] Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offenders were perceived to be under school age.

[1] For an explanation of year-labels see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

Taken from table 3.16 at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109chap3.xls

Crime: Urban Areas

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the provision of SOS night-time emergency buses in urban centres; and how much he plans to allocate to *(a)* revenue expenditure and *(b)* capital expenditure on vehicles for such services in 2010-11. [313191]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not have a policy for providing night-time emergency busses in urban areas and does not have plans for directly funding them. However we are aware that a small number of local areas (including Bournemouth, Torbay, Brighton and Hove and Thanet) have used part of their 2009-10 Home Office alcohol partnership funding for safebus/safe space initiatives. This £1.5million programme is targeted at our 50 alcohol priority areas. These local areas can bid for funding for initiatives after identifying how to tackle alcohol related harm in the means most appropriate to the area and the problem.

Departmental Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has a YouTube channel. [313524]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office has a channel on the YouTube video sharing website:

http://www.youtube.com/user/ukhomeoffice

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people on the drug rehabilitation requirements scheme have been imprisoned for breaching the conditions of the scheme; and how many people have remained addicted to drugs after participating in the scheme. [311950]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 records that 4,429 offenders were received into prison in 2008 following breach of a community order and 5,769 following breach of a suspended sentence order. However, these data cannot be broken down by type of requirement to identify the number of offenders imprisoned following breach of a drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR).[1]

The imposition of a custodial sentence is one of a range of options available to the courts if they are satisfied that an offender has failed to comply with any requirements of a community order or a suspended sentence order without a reasonable excuse. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 specifies that a court may only impose a custodial sentence following breach of a community order with a DRR where the offender has wilfully and persistently failed to comply with the requirements of the order.

The National Offender Management Service does not collect data on the offenders who have been imprisoned following breach of a DRR. However, the proportion of offenders successfully completing these orders has risen significantly from 28 per cent. in 2003 to 47 per cent. in 2008-09.

While all drug treatment delivered through the criminal justice system aims ultimately for abstinence, drug misuse can lead to chronic relapsing behaviour which may take years to address successfully and often beyond the duration of a sentence or order. No central record is kept of the number of those completing DRRs free from drug misuse. A recent research study[2] carried out in the community showed that sustaining heroin and crack cocaine users in treatment is effective at reducing misuse and in a significant proportion of cases leads to abstinence.

Figures from 2007-08 show 85 per cent. of offenders on a DRR being retained in treatment for more than 12 weeks, which is the minimum treatment period reported by the National Treatment Agency and the Drug Interventions Programme as having some impact on drug use and offending.

[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

[2] Marsden, J., et al. (2009) Effectiveness of community treatments for heroin and crack cocaine addiction in England: a prospective, in-treatment cohort study. The Lancet, Volume 374, Issue 9697, Pages 1262-1270.

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many guns were seized by the police in each year since 1997. [312762]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These data are not collected centrally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the availability of guns. [312763]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office and ACPO have jointly funded the establishment of the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) with an investment of £5.5 million. NABIS has made significant contributions to police and UKBA operations disrupting firearms supply, linking over 350 incidents in which firearms have been discharged and receiving over 1,000 items for analysis.

Through the Tackling Knives Action Programme the Home Office is also working with local partners to tackle gun and gang crime. This programme has included a consultation on strengthening controls on deactivated firearms in order to reduce their availability to criminals for use in crime. We are now analysing responses.

The Home Office has implemented a range of strict controls on the lawful possession of firearms, including a ban on handguns. Chief officers of police must be satisfied that an applicant has a good reason for wanting a particular firearm and is fit to be entrusted with it before issuing a certificate.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases in respect of potential victims of trafficking who have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009 no decision on *(a)* reasonable and *(b)* conclusive grounds has been made. [309668]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From the cases referred into the National Referral Mechanism between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, as of the latter date 70 were awaiting the Reasonable Grounds Decision and 245 were awaiting the Conclusive Grounds Decision.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been referred to the human trafficking national referral mechanism by *(a)* police and *(b)* the UK Border Agency since 1 April 2009. [313009]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: The police have referred 49 children and the UK Border Agency referred 39 children in the period, 1 April to 31 December 2009.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authorities have referred children to the human trafficking national referral mechanism since its inception. [313010]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 January 2010]*: The names of local authorities who have made referrals of children to the UK Human Trafficking Centre from the period 1 April to 31 December 2009 are listed as follows.

Local authorities referring children to the competent authority from 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009

Birmingham City Council
Brent Council
Cardiff Council
Conwy Social Services
Doncaster Council
Glasgow City Council
Hampshire County Council
Haringey Social Services
Harrow Children Services
Hertfordshire County Council
Hillingdon Local Authority
Islington Social Services
Kent Social Services
Leicester City Council
London Borough of Camden
Manchester City Council
Moray Council
Newham Youth Offending Team
Newport Local Authority
Norfolk County Council
Nottingham City Council
Portsmouth City Council
Sheffield City Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Suffolk County Council
Surrey County Council
Wakefield Council
West Sussex County Council

Knives: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to reduce the numbers of knives used in street crime. [312766]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since June 2008, the Government have committed over £12 million to the Tackling Knives Action Programme, initially to tackle teenage knife crime, and since, March 2009, to tackle knife crime and tackle the minority of young people who commit serious violence, regardless of the weapon involved. Our comprehensive approach to tackling serious youth violence ranges from enforcement action, which shows young people that there are clear consequences to violent behaviour, through to prevention work, which brings about long-term change. One aspect of this has been to provide police forces with additional search equipment. We have provided 1,150 extra search arches and wands to police forces to take knives off the streets and reassure the public. As a result of on-going activity, police forces tell us that there are encouraging signs that knife carrying is reducing among young people.

Knives: Retail Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with representatives of retail businesses on the sale of knives. [312771]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 17 November 2008, I chaired a roundtable with retailers (Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Lidl, Aldi, Morrisons, Co-op, Woolworths, Marks & Spencer, Argos/Homebase, TK Maxx, Next, Poundstretcher, Wilkinsons, Matalan, House of Fraser, John Lewis, Debenhams, BHS, B&Q and Ikea) to agree a six point commitment to limit the sale of knives to under 18s.

This included the following commitments:

1. To provide training and support to staff on the sale of knives, and keep a register of completion of training;

2. To clearly display to the public signs stating that knives are not for sale to under-18's;

3. To ensure that display and storage of knives minimises the risk of theft;

4. To ensure till prompts are in place to remind staff at point of sale;

5. To enhance safeguards on internet sales to address attempted underage sale of knives;

6. To monitor attempted underage sales and share information with local police and other partners.

The six point commitment, agreed with 21 retailers, was launched by the previous Home Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith), on 5 February 2009. We continue to monitor the impact of this agreement as part of the broader TKAP programme.

National Identity Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to Lord Stoddart of Swindon of 14 October 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 26-27WA, on the National Identity Register, what estimate has been made of the number of citizens who will have their fingerprints stored on the National Identity Register by 2022. [312441]

Meg Hillier: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 648W.

Nosratollah Tajik

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had with representatives of banking and financial institutions in respect of the request from the United States for the extradition of Nosratollah Tajik; and if he will make a statement. [308281]

Meg Hillier: There have been no such discussions.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what occasions there have been discussions with representatives of other Government departments on the request from the United States for the extradition of Nosratollah Tajik; and if he will make a statement. [308282]

Meg Hillier: Officials have discussed this case on a number of occasions with representatives of other Government Departments.

Mr. Tajik has exhausted all avenues of appeal against extradition under the Extradition Act 2003. He has made further representations in relation to his health; the Home Secretary has no general discretion in relation to the case and accordingly the sole issue which falls to be considered is whether it would be a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights to extradite.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for what reason the Government have not introduced a new liberty test on powers of entry; [308373]

(2) how many *(a)* new and *(b)* amended powers of entry have been created by legislation sponsored by his Department since 1997. [308736]

Mr. Hanson: All powers of entry are enacted through legislation and subject to parliamentary scrutiny. The following table sets out new or amended powers of entry introduced by the Home Department and enacted by Parliament since 1997. We will be publishing proposals later this year on raising public awareness and accountability on the exercise of entry powers by those other than the police or security services.

Home Department: Enactments by Parliament since 1997 containing a power of entry

Number	*Year*	*Legislation*	*Number of entry powers*	*New/amendment to existing power*
1	1997	Police Act 1997	1	New
2	2006/750	Police Act 1997—Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Registration) Regulations 2006	1	New
3	1998/472	The Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 (1998/472)	1	New
4	1999	Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	2	Amendment
5	2000	Terrorism Act 2000	8	New
6	2001	Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001	3	New
7	2001	Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001	1	New
8	2001	Private Security Industry Act 2001	1	New
9	2001	Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001	4	New
10	2002	Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2002	4	Amendment
11	2002	Police Reform Act 2002	1	Amendment
12	2002	Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	5	Amendment
13	2003	Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003	2	Amendment
14	2003	Extradition Act 2003	5	New
15	2005	Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005	1	New
16	2005	Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005	1	New
17	2006	Terrorism Act 2006	1	New
18	2007	UK Borders Act	1	New
19	2007/200	Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Application to Revenue & Customs) Order 200	1	Amendment
20	2008	Counter-Terrorism Act 2008	3	New

Home Department: Enactments by Parliament since 1997 containing a power of entry

Number	*Year*	*Legislation*	*Number of entry powers*	*New/amendment to existing power*
21	2008/296	European Communities Act 1972—Controlled Drugs (Drug Precursors)(Community External Trade) Regulations 2008	1	New
22	2009	Policing and Crime Act 2009	1	Amendment
23	2009	Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009	4	New

Religious Buildings: Registration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 524W, on religious buildings: registration, if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on the Registrar General's power to refuse applications for registration as a place of worship of the provisions proposed in the Equality Bill. [313088]

Meg Hillier: The Secretary of State does not believe that the Equality Bill will affect the way in which the Registrar General considers the certification of a building as a place of meeting for religious worship under The Places of Religious Worship Act 1855. As detailed in the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 524W, in his assessment of such certifications, the Registrar General considers the judgment in the 1970 Segerdal case which defines a place of which the principal use is a place where people come together as a congregation or assembly to worship God or do reverence to a deity. The Secretary of State does not believe that the definition of religion or belief in the Equality Bill (which replicates the existing definition) will impact on existing case-law such as Segerdal.

Surveillance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the compatibility of *(a)* his Department's programme of intercepting communications data and *(b)* the proposed Interception Modernisation Programme with the requirements of the Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2009. [313534]

Alan Johnson: The Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2009 completed the transposition of Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of communications data. Since 2005, when the directive was negotiated, there has been continuous and innovative development of communications services and applications, many of which are not covered by current data retention legislation. This has already started to undermine the capabilities of our law enforcement and national security agencies to protect the public.

Last year a public consultation, "Protecting the public in a changing communications environment", sought views on proposals to maintain investigative capabilities in the face of these challenges. In response to that consultation the Government are developing its proposed approach, continuing to work closely with communications service providers to minimise as far as possible any impact on them, and ensuring that any new proposals include strong safeguards to minimise the potential for abuse, and to maintain the security and integrity of the data.

Terrorism: Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for offences relating to comments posted on social networking websites under counter-terrorism legislation. [313338]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way. However, the Home Office does collate statistics on the number of terrorism arrests and convictions and these are included in a bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 816-18W, on housing: low incomes, if he will publish the figures for takeup of Open Market Homebuy from the second quarter of 2009-10 to the date of closure of the scheme to new applicants. [313284]

John Healey: Open Market HomeBuy was a scheme with two separate products, MyChoice HomeBuy and Ownhome. The latest dates for which new applications were taken for MyChoice HomeBuy were in mid May 2009, and in early July 2009 for Ownhome.

Provisional data from April to September 2009 for Open Market HomeBuy published by the Homes and Communities Agency show 3,194 completions in that period.

Affordable Housing: Construction

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes had been built as a result of each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder at 1 April 2009; how many were planned to be built in each Pathfinder area in 2009-10; and how many additional affordable homes he now expects to be built as a result of the release of additional resources in July 2009. [313696]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1503-1504W. Data differentiating affordable and private new build as a result of HMR funding are not yet held in a readily available format. The HMR programme particularly focuses on the refurbishment and renewal of existing stock and attracting developer interest to their areas, and it is for individual Pathfinders to decide on which activities to focus taking into account the stage of the regeneration process in their areas.

Construction: Company Liquidations

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many construction firms have gone into liquidation or ceased trading for other reasons in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority area or the lowest geographical area for which data are available. [313978]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The available statistics for insolvencies in the "construction" industry are shown in Table 1. The smallest geographical area for which these statistics are available is England and Wales as a whole. We do not have information relating to firms which have ceased trading for other reasons.

Responsibility for statistics relating to business start-ups and closures ("births" and "deaths") giving numbers of companies that have ceased trading (liquidations form part of these) has moved from the Department for Business to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Table 1: Company liquidations in England and Wales in the construction sector 1999-2008[1] [2]

	Liquidations
1999	1,529
2000	1,474
2001	1,509
2002	1,840
2003	1,728
2004	1,653
2005	1,775
2006[3]	1,409
2007[4]	972
2008	2,702

[1] Including compulsory liquidations and creditors' voluntary liquidations.
[2] From July 2007, construction is defined within the SIC2003; up to September 2006 it is defined within the Insolvency Trade Classification. No statistics by sector are available from Q4 2006 to Q2 2007 inclusive due to the change in industry classification.
[3] January to September only.
[4] July to December only.

Council Housing: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-10WS, on housing, what the *(a)* housing debt and *(b)* servicing costs were in each of the 202 local authorities referred to in each of the last three years; and when he expects to conclude his review of council housing finance and the future of local council housing. [313118]

John Healey: I have arranged for a table showing the level of notional housing debt, and associated assumed interest costs, for each local authority with housing stock for each of the three years 2007-08 to 2009-10, to be placed in the Library.

On 16 December 2009, I announced that the responses to the consultation on proposals for the reform of council housing finance showed overwhelming support for the principle of self-financing. I intend to make a further announcement in February which will confirm the progress we have made on self-financing and set out more details of the proposals. I also intend to publish a summary of responses to the consultation in due course.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the reason for the cost of the finance function of the Homes and Communities Agency referred to in the publication Benchmarking the Back Office: Central Government; and if he will make a statement. [312685]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is the Department's largest delivery agency, responsible for a range of investment activity which requires professional financial input to appraisal and decision making. As such, HCA's corporate services are designed to support delivery of capital programme spend, which was excluded from the calculation of total operating costs for this exercise. It should be noted that the cost of finance function data published includes data from HCA's predecessor bodies.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of progress towards his Department's target of three million new homes by 2026; and what estimate he has made of the sum to be contributed by the Government towards such building. [313446]

John Healey: The Department does not publish estimates of future levels of house building.

Shared Ownership Schemes: Staffordshire

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people resident in Staffordshire have successfully applied for each of his Department's shared equity housing schemes. [313445]

John Healey: The Department does not itself directly take steps to match demand for shared ownership products with prospective clients. CLG works in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to deliver its "HomeBuy" products.

The following list gives details of the number of households in Staffordshire who have applied for HCA's "HomeBuy" products.

	Number
HomeBuy Direct	83
HomeBuy Newbuild	46
HomeBuy Open Market	28

	Number
Home Ownership for people with Long Term Disabilities	3
Rent to Intermediate	7
Rent to HomeBuy	9
Total	176

Stress

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to departmental staff on stress recognition and management. [313984]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the advice issued to departmental staff on stress recognition and management has been placed in the Library.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* representations and *(b)* complaints his Department has received in relation to tenancy deposit schemes in each of the last three years; and how many have been received in 2009-10 to date. [313981]

Mr. Ian Austin: We do not hold this information.

CABINET OFFICE

Breast Cancer

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in *(a)* Torbay constituency, *(b)* Torbay local authority area, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [313884]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in (a) Torbay constituency, (b) Torbay local authority area, (c) the South West and (d) England in each year since 1997. [313884]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for (a) Torbay parliamentary constituency, (b) Torbay unitary authority, (c) South West government office region and (d) England, for each year from 1997 to 2007.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer,[1] persons,[2] (a) Torbay parliamentary constituency, (b) Torbay unitary authority, (c) South West government office region and (d) England,[3] 1997 to 2007[4]

				Persons
	Torbay constituency	*Torbay local authority*	*South West*	*England*
1997	87	122	3,875	33,659
1998	92	122	4,059	34,117
1999	127	173	4,751	35,778
2000	86	128	4,192	35,050
2001	93	119	4,439	35,787
2002	84	113	4,251	35,631
2003	84	103	4,655	37,874
2004	102	140	4,646	38,120
2005	106	142	4,728	38,970
2006	89	117	4,769	38,816
2007	100	137	4,789	38,291

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Around 99 per cent. of breast cancers cases are in women.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people resident in *(a)* Chorley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire county council area have been diagnosed with breast cancer in each year since 1997. [314226]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people resident in *(a)* Chorley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire county authority area have been diagnosed with breast cancer in each year since 1997. [314226]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table attached provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for *(a)* Chorley parliamentary constituency and *(b)* Lancashire county, for each year from 1997 to 2007.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons[2], (a) Chorley parliamentary constituency and (b) Lancashire county[3], 1997 to 2007[4]

	Number of persons	
	Chorley	*Lancashire*
1997	60	726
1998	62	769
1999	75	811
2000	81	822
2001	62	846

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons[2], (a) Chorley parliamentary constituency and (b) Lancashire county[3], 1997 to 2007[4]

	Number of persons	
	Chorley	*Lancashire*
2002	78	820
2003	77	837
2004	86	898
2005	86	896
2006	78	931
2007	87	960

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

[2] Around 99 per cent of breast cancers cases are in women

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009

[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year

Construction

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many construction firm start ups there have been in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority area or the lowest geographical area for which data are available. [313979]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 27 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many construction firm start ups there have been in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority area or the lowest geographical area for which data are available. [313979].

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The attached table contains the latest statistics available on business births for the construction industry by district, counties and unitary authorities within region and country. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate her Department has made of the number of people seeking jobs in the construction industry. [313980]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 27 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people seeking jobs in the construction industry. (313980).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics on the number of people seeking jobs based on claims for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). The JSA system collects information on the occupation sought by claimants, rather than the industry that they are seeking a job in.

For this question we have defined occupations in the construction industry using the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 as: skilled construction and building trades; construction plant operatives; and elementary construction occupations. Other occupations that may have some association with the construction industry have not been included. Individuals who are not claiming JSA but are seeking jobs in the construction industry are also not included.

In December 2009 the number of JSA claimants who were seeking jobs in the occupations listed above was 210,260.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Death: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the 10 most frequently recorded causes of death for *(a)* men, *(b)* women, *(c)* boys under the age of 18 years and *(d)* girls under the age of 18 years were in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each of the last five years. [312783]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 27 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the 10 most frequently recorded causes of death for (a) men, (b) women, (c) boys under the age of 18 years and (d) girls under the age of 18 years were in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each of the last five years. (312783)

The tables attached present the ten most frequently recorded causes of death[1], for (a) males aged 18 years and over (Table 1) and (b) females aged 18 years and over (Table 2), in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency, for the years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Due to the small numbers of deaths of (c) boys under the age of 18 years and (d) girls under the age of 18 years, equivalent information for frequently recorded causes of death could not be produced.

Individual causes of death are coded by ONS using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The causes of death shown in the tables are groups of codes designed for the tabulation of deaths according to 'main' causes.[2]

[1] In some years, more than ten causes of death are presented where the numbers of deaths were the same as those for the tenth most frequent cause.

[2] Griffiths, C, Rooney, C, and Brock, A. (2005) 'Leading causes of death in England and Wales—how should we group causes?' Health Statistics Quarterly 28, 6-17.

Table 1. Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), males aged 18 years and over, Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency, 2004 to 2008[1,2,3]

	Years when this was a main cause of death for males					
Cause of death[4]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*ICD-10 Codes*
Aortic aneurysm and dissection	•	—	—	—	—	I71
Cerebrovascular diseases	•	•	•	•	•	I60-I69
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	•	•	•	•	•	J40-J47
Cirrhosis and other diseases of liver	—	•	—	•	—	K70-K76
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	•	•	•	•	•	F01, F03, G30

Table 1. Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), males aged 18 years and over, Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency, 2004 to 2008[1,2,3]

Cause of death[4]	Years when this was a main cause of death for males					ICD-10 Codes
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Diabetes	•	•	•	•	•	E10-E14
Diseases of the urinary system	—	—	—	—	•	N00-N39
Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	—	—	•	—	—	150-151
Hypertensive diseases	—	•	—	—	—	110-115
Influenza and pneumonia	•	•	•	•	•	J10-J18
Ischaemic heart diseases	•	•	•	•	•	120-125
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus	•	•	—	•	•	C18-C21
Malignant (cancer) neoplasm of oesophagus	—	—	—	—	•	C15
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of pancreas	•	—	•	—	—	C25
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of prostate	•	•	•	•	—	C61
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of stomach	—	•	—	•	—	C16
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung	•	•	•	•	•	C33-C34
Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	—	—	—	•		C81-C96
Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use	—	•	—	—	—	F10-F19

[1] Most frequent causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in male deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 64 per cent. of all male deaths in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency between 2004 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

Table 2. Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), females aged 18 years and over, Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency, 2004 to 2008[1,2,3]

Cause of death[4]	Years when this was a main cause of death for females					ICD-10 Codes
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Accidental falls	•	—	—	—	—	W00-W19
Cerebrovascular diseases	•	•	•	•	•	160-169
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	•	•	•	•	•	J40-J47
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	•	•	•	•	•	F01, F03, G30
Diabetes	•	—	•	•	•	E10-E14
Diseases of the urinary system	•	•	•	•	•	N00-N39
Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	•	•	—	•	—	150-151
Influenza and pneumonia	•	•	•	•	•	J10-J18
Ischaemic heart diseases	•	•	•	•	•	120-125
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus	—	—	•	•	•	C18-C21
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of ovary	—	•	—	—	—	C56
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of pancreas	—	—	—	•	—	C25
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of stomach	•	—	—	—	—	C16
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung	•	•	•	•	•	C33-C34
Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of breast	•	•	•	•	•	C50
Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	—	—	—	•	—	C81-C96

[1] Most frequent causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in female deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 63 per cent. of all female deaths in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency between 2004 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in her Department and its agency; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312824]

Angela E. Smith: For information concerning how many officials are employed in each layer of management reporting in the latest year for which information is available and the number of management layers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Tessa Jowell) to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 661W.

Information on how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer of management reporting in the latest year for which information is available is detailed in the following table.

Grade	*Total employment cost in 2008-09 (£)*
Senior civil service	26,130,033
Other management	
Band A (Grades 6 and 7)	20,179,844
B2 (senior/higher executive officer)	14,742,107
B1 (executive officer)	8,589,414
Administrative grades	5,064,377

Disadvantaged

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of the 20 recommendations of the Better Information report from the Social Exclusion Policy Action Team 18 have *(a)* been implemented and *(b)* not been implemented. [312264]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

Progress against the PAT 18 recommendations can be found in Annex A of the Neighbourhood Statistics Service Annual Report to Ministers 2005-06. All 20 of the recommendations made by PAT 18 have been met.

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/images/NeSS-Report_2005-06_tcm97-51089.pdf

Electorate: Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many electors there were in each ward in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* Bristol South constituency in each year since 1980. [312893]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, January 2010:

The Director General for the Office for National Statistics has been asked to reply to your question asking how many electors there were in each ward in (a) Vale of Clwyd and (b) Bristol South constituency in each year since 1980. I am replying in his absence. (312893)

Table 1 shows the number of people who were registered to vote in parliamentary elections for each ward in the Vale of Clwyd constituency from 1997 to 2006. Table 2 shows the number of people who were registered to vote in parliamentary elections for each ward in the Bristol South constituency from 1988 to 2008.

ONS does not publish ward level figures on parliamentary electors. Data have been provided by the Boundary Commissions for England and for Wales, who collate this information for their own purposes. The Vale of Clwyd constituency did not exist prior to 1997. It was proposed by the Boundary Commission for Wales's Fourth Periodic Review in 1995 and came into effect with the General Election of May 1997. The number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections for each ward is not collated prior to 1988 for wards in England. The latest available figures are for 2006 for wards in Wales and 2008 for wards in England.

Table 1: Number of parliamentary electors registered to vote in each ward in Vale of Clwyd, 1997 to 2006[1]

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Vale of Clwyd[2]	52,348	51,326	50,612	51,153	51,320	49,111	50,535	52,232	53,091	54,706
Bodelwyddan	1,402	1,397	1,335	1,410	1,417	1,387	1,391	1,415	1,523	1,540
Denbigh Central	1,329	1,309	1,275	1,299	1,262	1,164	1,301	1,310	1,310	1,348
Denbigh Lower	3,187	3,140	3,162	3,108	3,201	3,211	3,231	3,325	3,373	3,497
Denbigh Upper/ Henllan	2,467	2,489	2,431	2,420	2,385	2,275	2,368	2,376	2,416	2,499
Dyserth	1,846	1,848	1,809	1,894	1,902	1,741	1,766	1,815	1,867	1,931
Llandyrnog	976	1,013	991	1,019	1,010	1,034	1,049	1,064	1,066	1,082
Meliden	1,553	2,685	2,635	2,670	2,659	2,550	2,598	2,664	2,666	2,759
Prestatyn Central	2,681	2,983	2,937	3,001	3,013	2,883	2,881	3,006	3,073	3,173
Prestatyn East	3,010	1,544	1,451	1,498	1,507	1,444	1,481	1,518	1,538	1,560
Prestatyn North	4,114	3,955	3,980	3,988	4,004	3,896	4,141	4,408	4,495	4,655
Prestatyn South West	2,551	2,489	2,493	2,518	2,481	2,502	2,556	2,638	2,625	2,735
Rhuddlan	3,210	3,130	3,127	3,156	3,202	2,679	2,724	2,760	2,808	2,916
Rhyl East	3,677	3,578	3,502	3,590	3,595	3,486	3,552	3,620	3,735	3,737
Rhyl South	3,002	3,013	3,030	2,996	2,995	2,895	2,943	3,005	3,013	3,082
Rhyl South East	4,989	4,963	4,880	5,094	5,192	5,208	5,511	5,672	5,707	5,915
Rhyl South West	3,699	3,708	3,662	3,664	3,607	3,205	3,433	3,534	3,567	3,573
Rhyl West	3,428	3,078	3,000	2,750	2,761	2,464	2,457	2,777	2,960	3,317
St. Asaph East	1,307	1,301	1,295	1,320	1,329	1,313	1,319	1,320	1,323	1,369
St. Asaph West	1,248	1,153	1,116	1,201	1,178	1,155	1,179	1,282	1,288	1,322
Trefnant	1,489	1,402	1,375	1,409	1,444	1,420	1,440	1,486	1,502	1,524
Tremeirchion	1,183	1,148	1,126	1,148	1,176	1,199	1,214	1,237	1,236	1,262

[1] These figures refer to the number of people who would have been entitled to vote if an election had been held on 1 December.

[2] The Vale of Clwyd constituency was proposed by the Boundary Commission for Wales' Fourth Periodic Review in 1995 and came into effect with the General Election of May 1997. Prior to that date the wards were divided between the then existing parliamentary constituencies of Clwyd North West constituency, Clwyd South West constituency and Delyn constituency.

Sources:

Office for National Statistics

Boundary Commission for Wales

Table 2: Number of parliamentary electors registered to vote in each ward in Bristol South, 1988 to 2008[1]

	1988	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Bristol South	67,872	65,981	65,026	65,387	64,810	63,790	63,517	63,017	63,028	72,834	72,812
Bedminster	9,036	8,941	8,841	8,782	8,670	8,530	8,529	8,481	8,481	8,517	8,584
Bishopsworth	7,937	7,700	7,578	7,519	7,474	7,439	7,325	7,186	7,138	7,108	7,072
Filwood	7,505	7,078	6,958	7,134	7,076	6,829	6,884	6,787	6,756	6,593	6,568
Hartcliffe	8,697	8,473	8,350	8,282	8,277	8,236	8,125	7,929	7,756	7,608	7,544
Hengrove[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,909	9,969
Knowle	7,899	7,671	7,565	7,667	7,541	7,495	7,362	7,281	7,291	7,301	7,347
Southville	8,135	7,951	7,745	7,896	7,720	7,445	7,600	7,719	7,920	8,170	8,094
Whitchurch Park	8,573	8,317	8,224	8,237	8,266	8,196	7,967	7,945	7,870	7,771	7,760
Windmill Hill	10,090	9,850	9,765	9,870	9,786	9,620	9,725	9,689	9,816	9,857	9,874

	1999	*2000*	*2001[2]*	*2001[2]*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bristol South	73,189	72,934	72,960	72,992	71,048	71,055	71,458	71,885	73,548	74,127	74,725
Bedminster	8,641	8,581	8,608	8,632	8,479	8,442	8,530	8,520	8,703	9,038	9,390
Bishopsworth	8,574	8,473	8,500	8,431	8,372	8,398	8,418	8,437	8,621	8,583	8,693
Filwood	7,984	8,013	7,950	7,931	7,657	7,660	7,663	7,627	7,992	7,990	7,978
Hartcliffe	8,169	8,164	8,219	8,243	8,020	7,993	8,027	8,150	8,255	8,371	8,379
Hengrove[3]	8,830	8,840	8,794	8,852	8,750	8,763	8,837	8,821	8,837	8,805	8,841
Knowle	5,777	5,783	5,757	5,744	5,717	5,681	5,694	5,652	5,721	5,693	5,644
Southville	8,181	8,031	8,074	8,076	7,790	7,837	7,858	8,123	8,509	8,591	8,720
Whitchurch Park	8,201	8,138	8,151	8,110	7,781	7,797	7,911	7,891	8,086	8,119	8,114
Windmill Hill	8,832	8,911	8,907	8,973	8,482	8,484	8,520	8,664	8,824	8,937	8,966

[1] Figures from 1988 to 2001 refer to the number of parliamentary electors registered to vote on 16 February and from 2001 onwards, those registered to vote on 1 December.

[2] Two sets of figures were produced in 2001, the first refer to 16 February, and the second to 1 December.

[3] Hengrove ward forms part of Bristol South constituency from 1996 onwards.

Sources:
Office for National Statistics
Boundary Commission for England

Equal Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate she has made of the gender pay gap in each *(a)* local authority area, *(b)* Government Office region and *(c)* parliamentary constituency. [313266]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 27 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting the gender pay gap in each (a) local authority area, (b) Government Office region and (c) parliamentary constituency for which information is available. (313266)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Estimates of the gender pay gap below Government Office Region are not reliable because of small sample sizes and are not provided. Estimates of the gender pay gap for part-time employees at Government Office Region are also not provided for this reason.

I attach a table showing the gender pay gap in 2009 for median hourly earnings excluding overtime for all and full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence, in each Government Office Region.

Gender pay gap for employee jobs[1]: Government office regions 2009

	Median hourly earnings excluding overtime (£)							
	Men			*Women*			*Gender pay gap (%)*	
	All	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*All*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*All*	*Full-time*
North East	11.27	11.75	*7.71	9.00	10.26	7.49	20.1	12.6
North West	11.58	12.14	7.47	9.14	10.90	7.46	21.0	10.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	11.28	11.81	7.46	8.97	10.59	7.41	20.4	10.3
East Midlands	11.49	12.00	7.38	8.79	10.27	7.40	23.5	14.4
West Midlands	11.61	12.11	7.23	9.03	10.50	7.60	22.2	13.3
East	12.00	12.50	8.00	9.28	10.73	7.78	22.7	14.2
London	16.77	17.56	8.99	13.83	15.23	9.74	17.6	13.3

Gender pay gap for employee jobs[1]: Government office regions 2009

Median hourly earnings excluding overtime (£)

	Men			*Women*			*Gender pay gap (%)*	
	All	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*All*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*All*	*Full-time*
South East	13.22	13.89	7.42	9.93	11.65	8.16	24.9	16.1
South West	11.62	12.06	8.00	9.13	10.25	7.92	21.5	15.0
Wales/Cymru	11.16	11.75	7.26	8.94	10.26	7.39	19.9	12.6
Scotland	11.90	12.39	7.62	9.75	11.33	8.04	18.0	8.5
Northern Ireland	10.63	11.00	*7.72	9.29	10.61	8.06	12.7	3.5

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. As at April 2009.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key:

CV <= 5 per cent.

* CV >5 per cent. and <= 10 per cent.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Ministers: Training

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the Handbook for Ministers prepared by the National School of Government. [312284]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to assist by writing to the right hon. Member.

Letter from Rod Clark, dated January 2010:

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.

The National School operates in a commercial environment with a business model which requires the full operating costs of the department to be recovered from the products and services provided to clients and customers. The "Handbook for Ministers" will be published in due course with a cover price. At the moment it is still in draft form, and subject to revision; so I have concluded that it would not be appropriate at this stage to place a copy in the Library of the House.

I am sending you, however, the current draft of the Handbook, and will send you the final version when it is published.

Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average annual salary was of full-time *(a)* members of the academic staff in further education colleges, *(b)* teachers in secondary schools, *(c)* public sector employees and *(d)* private sector employees in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. [312885]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average annual salary was of full-time (a) members of the academic staff in further education colleges, (b) teachers in secondary schools, (c) public sector employees and (d) private sector employees in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. (312885)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. ASHE estimates by occupation are based on the Standard Occupation Classification. The public and private sector breakdown is based on the Inter-Departmental Business Register legal status.

We have attached a table showing the median gross annual earnings for all full-time employees for each of the above occupations and sectors for 1999 and 2009, the earliest and latest periods for which figures are available. For the purposes of calculating real terms estimates we have used the all items Retail Price Index for April of each year.

Median gross annual earnings for full-time employee jobs[1]: United Kingdom 1999 and 2009

£

	1999 at 1999 prices	*1999 at 2009 prices[2]*	*2009*
Higher and further education teaching professionals[3]	23,400	30,000	—
Secondary (and middle school deemed secondary) education teaching professionals[3]	24,600	31,500	—
Further education teaching professionals[4]	—	—	32,600
Secondary education teaching professionals[4]	—	—	36,200
Public sector	19,300	24,700	27,700
Private sector	17,200	22,000	25,000

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than a year. As at April of each year.

[2] Delated using all items RPI for April of each year.

[3] Standard Occupation Classification 1990.

[4] Standard Occupation Classification 2000.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Senior Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants in *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies are in receipt of a salary of over (i) £100,000, (ii) £150,000 and (iii) £200,000. [312299]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 27 January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, how many civil servants in (a) Government departments, (b) executive agencies and (c) non-departmental public bodies are in receipt of a salary of over (i) £100,000, (ii) £150,000 and (iii) £200,000. (312299).

The requested data are attached at Annex A. The estimates for non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) only include crown NDPBs. Employees of crown NDPBs are civil servants and are counted as being in the Civil Service for the purpose of ONS sector employee headcounts.

Annex A

Number of civil servants in (a) Government Departments, (b) executive agencies and (c) non-departmental public bodies in receipt of a salary of over (i) £100,000, (ii) £150,000 and (iii) £200,000[1 2 3] *All employees, 31 March 2009*

			Headcount
	Over £100,000	*Over £150,000*	*Over £200,000*
Government Departments	660	110	10
Executive agencies	140	20	[4]—
Non-departmental public bodies	20	[4]—	0

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.

[2] Salaries represent actual annual gross salaries.

[3] Includes ministerial and non-ministerial Government Departments.

[4] Less than five.

Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which constituency had the highest number of its residents attending a university in each year since 1997. [313491]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), it is possible to identify how many students entered HE from each parliamentary constituency. In each year from 1997/98, with the exception of 2007/08, Bristol West had the highest number of entrants to UK Higher Education Institutions. In 2007/08, Hornsey and Wood Green had the highest number of entrants.

Care should be exercised when interpreting this analysis as the number of entrants is not matched against the underlying population in these constituencies, and there are cases in which the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Combined Heat and Power: Finance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the likely change in the number of jobs in the micro-combined heat and power industry if a feed-in tariff for the sector were to be introduced. [310717]

Mr. Kidney: The Government have not produced estimates of job creation in the microCHP industry. Any such estimates would depend on market size, which would depend in part on the nature and level of the support the technology was offered, as well as a range of commercial factors, and the nature of the manufacturing process for the different technologies relative to conventional boilers.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to make an announcement on the introduction of a feed-in tariff for micro-combined heat and power. [310718]

Mr. Kidney: Treatment of microCHP under the feed-in tariff will be announced as part of the Government's response to the feed-in tariffs consultation. This will be made shortly.

Fuel Poverty: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Torbay constituency and *(b)* the UK were in fuel poverty in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2009. [314216]

Mr. Kidney: The estimated number of households in fuel poverty in the UK was around 2 million in 2003. The latest figures available show that there were around 4 million fuel poor households in the UK in 2007.

The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 7,600 fuel poor households in the Torbay constituency. In 2003 there were around 2,800 fuel poor households in the Torbay constituency. The methodology used for the 2006 work differs from that previously used, so care should be taken in comparing the fuel poverty levels in one area between 2003 and 2006.

Microgeneration

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what products have received certification under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. [314336]

Joan Ruddock: All MCS certified products are listed online at:

http://www.microgenerationcertification.org/Home+and+Business+Owners/Microgeneration+Products

Fully MCS certified products are clearly distinguished by MCS serial numbers.

On these lists, a number of "MCS transition products" also appear which do not yet have MCS serial numbers. These transition products have access to grants and incentives, having met some of the necessary test criteria and are still undergoing MCS assessment.

Arrangements relating to these transition products will remain in place until the end of June 2010.

Warm Front Scheme: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications from residents of Birmingham to the Warm Front Scheme for *(a)* heating, *(b)* insulation and *(c)* heating and insulation were approved in each of the last three years. [312784]

Mr. Kidney: The following table indicates the number of successful applications from residents of Birmingham to the warm front scheme for *(a)* heating, *(b)* insulation and *(c)* heating and insulation in each of the previous years.

				Number
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Insulation only	4,333	3,937	3,025	2,472
Heating only	3,826	4,255	3,530	2,268
Both	1,988	2,170	2,307	2,081

[1] Up to and including the 17 January 2010.

TREASURY

Arm's Length Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 53 of Putting the Frontline First, Cm 7753, what the name is of each of the 750 arm's length bodies sponsored by the Government. [312300]

Mr. Byrne: Details of arm's length bodies sponsored by central Government are set out in the Cabinet Office publication, "Public Bodies". The 752 bodies referred to on page 53 of "Putting the Frontline First", CM 7753, includes all bodies named in this publication ("Public Bodies 2008") plus executive agencies, non-ministerial Departments and other relevant bodies (e.g. charities and independent bodies) outside the standard Cabinet Office classification. A list of executive agencies and non-ministerial departments can be found on the Cabinet Office website.[1] The 752 bodies referred to in "Putting the Frontline First", CM 7753 also excludes independent monitoring boards on the basis that these are multiple bodies, but are of a single type, locally constituted, and staffed by volunteers. Finally, the above lists of bodies will be subject to change as in-year fluctuations occur, which will include the abolition of bodies announced in "Putting the Frontline First" taking effect once the necessary consultation and legislation has been completed.

[1] These can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities/executive_agencies.aspx

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities/non_ministerial_dept.aspx

Bank Services

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many retail bank branches there are per head of population. [313443]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not collect these data.

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which recommendations of the 2004 review of public sector relocation undertaken by Sir Michael Lyons have been implemented. [312272]

Mr. Byrne: Over the last six years the Government have used Sir Michael Lyons' 2004 review to deliver significant relocation of civil service posts out of London and the south-east.

The Government have made strong progress in implementing the Lyons review's recommendations. At pre-Budget report 2009, it was announced that the relocations programme has moved nearly 21,000 civil service posts out of London and the south-east—nearly a year ahead of schedule. At Budget 2009, the Government illustrated their commitment to the relocations agenda by agreeing to relocate a further 4,000 posts by March 2010.

These relocations would not have been possible without the Government's willingness to implement the review's recommendations and to make the necessary investment.

To ensure that Departments engaged in the relocations programme, the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) published mandatory guidance. The guidance (DAO 05/05) ensures that Government Departments, their executive agencies and sponsored bodies, at appropriate property events, provide evidence that illustrates their business need to stay in London.

To take things further 'Putting the Front Line First: Smarter Government' announced that Ian Smith would lead an independent review on relocations. The review will report in time for Budget and will outline how at least 10 per cent. of all civil service posts currently based in London and the south-east can be relocated in the medium term.

Departmental Training

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the ministerial correction of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1MC, on the National School of Government, what courses representatives of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit attended at the National School of Government in each of the three listed years. [312434]

Mr. Byrne: With reference to the ministerial correction of 9 November 2009, the names of the courses that PMDU staff attended at the National School of Government in years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 were:

	Name of training course
2006-07	Executive Coaching Programme
2007-08	No programmes
2008-09	Foundation Course for Senior Entrants

Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet representatives of the petrol retail industry to discuss the 2010 rating revaluation. [312724]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* Treasury and Communities and Local Government Ministers have corresponded with petrol stations' representatives over the 2010 business rates revaluation. Officials in the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) are continuing to meet with the industry to discuss the detail of the scheme used to value petrol forecourts. I do not therefore intend to pursue a meeting at this stage, but remain open to doing so in the future.

Provident Societies: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what directives the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has issued to non-FSA regulated industrial and provident societies in Northern Ireland on the undertaking of regulated activities by such societies. [313914]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, organisations of any kind which carry on regulated activities, as defined in the Act, anywhere in the UK, are required to seek formal permission from the Financial Services Authority (FSA) unless otherwise legally exempt. The FSA issues advice and guidance to organisations through its website and other means.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism the Government plans to vet public sector employment contracts paying more than £150,000; and whether that mechanism will apply to existing contracts. [312165]

Mr. Byrne: As announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report (CM 7747) at paragraph 6.50, I shall approve pay levels in excess of £150,000 for appointments subject to ministerial approval (including those within the civil service). Where ministerial approval is not required the Government expect all organisations making appointments on salaries in excess of £150,000 to publicly justify this to the relevant Secretary of State.

This will apply to new contracts, including cases of reappointment or appointment to a new post.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the publication of the Long Term Public Finance Report's estimate of the liability of Pay-As-You-Go public service occupational pension schemes. [312274]

Mr. Byrne: The Long Term Public Finance Report published alongside the pre-Budget report on 9 December 2009 estimates the liability of pay-as-you-go public service pension schemes as at 31 March 2008 to be £770 billion.

Snow and Ice

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313593]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No estimate has been made of any costs arising from the recent severe weather conditions.

Stress

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 497W, on industrial health and safety, when his Department produced the document 'Introduction to Stress Awareness and Management'; and what the cost was of producing that document. [314032]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HMT produced the document entitled 'Introduction to Stress Awareness and Management' in 2009 as part of a package of measures in response to an identified need to manage increased risk to employees from stress and related illnesses. The document cost £0.96p per copy to print, based on a single print run of 2,500 copies. The volume printed was to cover the Treasury Group with sufficient extra to cover new staff for the foreseeable future. The preparation of the content was part of the normal work of the welfare officer and preparation for printing was done in-house by the Department's publishing team. The document is also available to staff in electronic format on the Department's intranet.

VAT: Fuel Oil

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to regulate the price of domestic heating oil following the return in the rate of value added tax to 17.5 per cent. [313193]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

There is a reduced VAT rate on heating oil for domestic or residential use, relative to the standard rate of 17.5 per cent. of 5 per cent.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Human Trafficking

6. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on policies to reduce levels of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. [313706]

Maria Eagle: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues across Government, through an inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking. Measures to tackle trafficking for sexual exploitation include:

a new offence for buying sex with someone who is subject to exploitative conduct

work with the Newspaper Society to tackle small ads, resulting in an 80 per cent. decline in advertisements offering sexual services from foreign women since 2007

a national referral mechanism to improve identification and protection of victims.

Equality Bill: Religious Groups

7. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the provisions of the Equality Bill relating to religion or belief; and if she will make a statement. [313707]

Michael Jabez Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) earlier today by the Minister for Women and Equality.

National Minimum Wage

8. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effect of the national minimum wage on the gender pay gap. [313708]

Maria Eagle: The Minister for Women and Equality regularly meets with her colleagues to discuss how to improve women's position in the labour market, including by tackling the gender pay gap. Between 950,000 and 1 million employees stand to benefit from the latest increases in the national minimum wage (in October 2009), two thirds of whom are estimated to be women.

Discrimination: Older Workers

9. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to tackle discrimination against older workers. [313709]

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to tackle discrimination against older workers. [313701]

Michael Jabez Foster: We know that just because we are past 65 we are not past it.

Through the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 the Government have ensured that older people have a legal right not to be discriminated against at work, or harassed because of their age. The legislation removed the compulsory retirement beyond the age of 65. The employer must consider this request.

Research published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on Monday found that the majority of workers over 50 want to continue working beyond the state pension age. We want to give older people flexible options and this is one reason why we have brought forward our review of default retirement age to this year.

PRIME MINISTER

Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what steps are being taken to remove persons occupying the former ministerial residence at South Eaton Place. [312445]

The Prime Minister: South Eaton Place is unoccupied. The property is for sale.

HEALTH

Asthma: Drugs

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the potential cost savings consequent on full implementation of the 2008 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on inhaled corticosteroids for the treatment of chronic asthma. [313528]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no such estimate. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published costing reports alongside its two technology appraisals relating to the use of corticosteroids in the treatment of chronic asthma in adults and children. The costing reports are published on NICE'S website at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA138

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he spent on metered dose inhalers in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [313529]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The net ingredient cost of metered dose inhalers (including pressurised metered dose inhalers and dry powder inhalers) together with refills was £773.7 million in 2007-08 and £833.6 million in 2008-09. Figures are taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority.

Metered dose inhalers are defined by those listed within British National Formulary sections 3.1 Bronchodilators, 3.2 Corticosteroids and 3.3 Cromoglaticate and related therapy and leukotriene receptor antagonists.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to provide funding for biomedical research into the causes, transmission and treatment of *(a)* myalgic encephalomyelitis and *(b)* other xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related illnesses. [313597]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is a non-departmental public body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The MRC does not normally allocate funds to particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. When appropriate, high quality research particularly in areas of strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds, but research excellence and importance to health continue to be the primary considerations in funding decisions. The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding.

Chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) continues to be a strategic priority area for funding and the MRC remains committed to supporting scientific research into all aspects of CFS/ME including evaluations of treatments and studies into the biological basis of the condition.

The MRC recently held a CFS/ME research workshop where the recent findings on xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related virus (XMRV) were among the items discussed. A note of the discussions will be published on the MRC website in due course.

The MRC's National Institute for Medical Research is leading a programme on infection and replication of retroviruses (including XMRV). One study within the programme is looking at how XMRV reproduces in the cell, its interaction with host cell factors and how it subverts the host immune systems.

CJD

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to protect against the transmission of vCJD through contaminated blood; which of these procedures was recommended by the Advisory Committee on Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such measures; and if he will make a statement. [314085]

Gillian Merron: Since the theoretical risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) transmission through blood was first identified as a possibility in 1996, a series of precautionary measures have been implemented to protect the blood supply and products made by fractionating plasma, including:

Applicable to all blood/blood products

From December 1997, blood components, plasma products or tissues obtained from any individual who later develops vCJD, have been withdrawn/recalled to prevent their use;

From October 1999, white blood cells (which may carry a risk of transmitting vCJD) have been reduced in all blood used for transfusion, a process known as leucodepletion or leucoreduction;

Following the report of the first possible case of transmission of vCJD by blood transfusion in December 2003, individuals who had themselves received a transfusion of blood components since January 1980 were excluded from donating blood. This took effect from April 2004;

In July 2004, this exclusion criterion for blood donation was extended to include two new groups, who had received transfusions of blood components since 1980:

Previously transfused platelet donors.

Donors who were unsure if they had previously had a blood transfusion. This now applies to donors who have been transfused anywhere in the world;

In July 2005, the Department announced further precautionary measures for around 100 individuals who donated blood to three people who later developed vCJD. The notified people have been asked not to donate blood, tissues or organs and to inform health care professionals so extra precautions can be taken when they have surgery or other invasive procedures; and

In November 2005, the Department announced an extension of the July 2005 notification exercise. A further 50 people who had received blood from some of the 100 or so donors notified since July 2005 were traced and notified of their potential exposure to vCJD, and asked to take similar precautions.

Plasma

Since 1999, plasma for the manufacture of fractionated plasma products, such as clotting factors, has been obtained from non-UK sources;

Since 2004, fresh frozen plasma for treating babies and young children born on or after 1 January 1996 has been obtained from the USA;

Fresh frozen plasma for treating babies and young children born on or after 1 January 1996 has been obtained from the USA, and from July 2005 its use was extended to all children up to the age of 16;

The national health service has been instructed to purchase imported solvent detergent-treated pooled plasma for adult patients with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura; and

Synthetic (recombinant) clotting factor for treatment of haemophilia has been provided to the under-16s since 1998 and for all patients for whom it is suitable since 2005.

Platelets

To reduce donor exposure, the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs in 2009 reiterated its predecessor committee's advice on increasing the percentage of platelets collected by apheresis to at least 80 per cent.

Cryoprecipitate (a special cold-treated plasma preparation)

Cryoprecipitate produced from methylene blue treated-plasma imported from the USA is being implemented for children up to the age of 16. The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs is reviewing use of cryoprecipitate in older patients.

All of these recommendations were recommended or endorsed by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (which first met in January 2008), or its predecessor committees.

Because of the apparently lengthy incubation period of vCJD and the small number of clinical cases observed to date, it is not possible to make a definitive assessment of the contribution each measure makes to the overall risk reduction.

Contraceptives: Health Education

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 471W, on contraceptives: health education, through what metrics the effectiveness of the campaign is being measured; for what reasons his Department is using econometric modelling to determine the effectiveness of the campaign; and if he will make a statement. [313632]

Gillian Merron: The metrics that will be used to measure the effectiveness of the "Contraception. Worth Talking About" campaign include levels of awareness and understanding, personal relevance, willingness to discuss contraception with friends, family and partner and discussion of contraception with a health care professional. In the short term these metrics will be measured predominantly by tracking research.

Evaluating the overall success of the campaign more thoroughly requires complex multivariate analysis based on attitudinal and behavioural data and assumptions on how people react as a result of campaign activity. In the medium to long term we are considering using econometric modelling as this uses statistical techniques to strip out irrelevant factors affecting the results of the campaign.

Departmental Drinking Water

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on bottled drinking water in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [313287]

Phil Hope: The Department does not purchase bottled water.

For meeting or hospitality purposes the Department utilises its own water supply which is filtered and bottled on site.

In 2009 the cost of this was £39,925.08.

Departmental Management Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313990]

Phil Hope: Specific information detailing spend on management consultancy has been routinely collected by the Department since April 2005. Information on management consultancy expenditure before April 2005 is not held by the Department.

Information is collected on total payments to management consultancy organisations and does not reflect the payment to individual employees. The figures from April 2005 until March 2009 are as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	133
2006-07	205
2007-08	132
2008-09	127

Information on expenditure on reimbursable expenses is not collected centrally. It is the Department's preference to commission management consultancy based on fixed prices for entire pieces of work and to include expenses as part of this.

Where expenses are paid, the Department reimburses costs at the same rates and policies as for its own employees.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307030]

Phil Hope: The wages/salaries outturn for the Department for 2009-10 is not yet known. Based on projections, it is estimated that non-consolidated performance payments will represent a maximum of 1.7 per cent. of the pay bill for 2009-10.

Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral part of the Department's reward strategy for staff at all levels. These payments have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs.

Health Education: Internet

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1317W, on health education: internet, what the name was of the company paid £10,000 to develop the iPhone application. [313422]

Gillian Merron: The Department paid Capita Health Services £10,000 to develop the iPhone application. Capita then paid £9,000 of this to Brain Bakery and the remaining £1,000 to Antbits Interactive for the design and delivery of the application.

Health Services: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors were employed in (i) the South West and (ii) the South Devon Healthcare Trust in each year since 1997. [313331]

Ann Keen: Figures on how many nurses and doctors were employed in the South West strategic health authority area and the South Devon healthcare trust in each year since 1997 are given in the following table:

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the South West strategic health authority area and the South Devon healthcare NHS trust, as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South West strategic health authority area medical and dental staff	5,092	5,376	5,484	5,826	6,115	6,575	6,975	7,550	8,031	8,395	8,578	8,944
General practitioners (excluding retainers)	3,185	3,257	3,307	3,363	3,430	3,467	3,587	3,879	4,065	3,955	3,956	4,196
Qualified HCHS nursing staff	29,927	29,966	30,286	31,105	32,671	34,106	35,739	35,342	36,542	36,539	36,754	38,093
GP practice nurses	1,940	1,911	1,930	2,002	2,197	2,355	2,283	2,363	2,449	2,632	2,563	2,504

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the South West strategic health authority area and the South Devon healthcare NHS trust, as at 30 September each year

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Headcount 2008
Of which:												
South Devon healthcare NHS trust medical and dental staff	283	284	309	309	332	309	322	354	365	374	390	400
Qualified HCHS nursing staff	1,430	1,459	1,492	1,542	1,525	924	927	980	980	950	998	948

Notes:

1. It is highly likely that the drop in numbers of staff at South Devon healthcare NHS trust in 2002 is due to the migration of community-based services during the formation of primary care trusts that cover the South Devon area.

2. GP retainers are part-time GPs who work a small number of sessions per week. They were first collected in 1999 and have been omitted for comparability purposes.

3. Medical and dental staff are doctors that work in the HCHS setting. The title medical and dental refers to the distinction between doctors in medical specialties and dental specialties and is used to differentiate between high street GPs.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Health: Unemployment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he has received from the Chief Medical Officer on the effects on public health of present trends in the level of unemployment. [313291]

Gillian Merron: We have not had any specific advice on the effects on public health of the present trend in the level of employment from the Chief Medical Officer.

Hospitals: Admissions

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances there were at *(a)* accident and emergency departments and *(b)* minor injury units in (i) December 2008 and (ii) December 2009. [312941]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not collected in the format requested. Information is collected weekly, not monthly. Depending on how the days of the week fall in any given year there can be four or five weekly collections in each month. In December 2008 there were four weekly collections, and in December 2009 five. The following table shows the number of attendances at all types of accident and emergency (A&E) departments in England in December 2008 and December 2009, collected through the weekly collections. However, the figures are not directly comparable due to the difference in the number of data collections within each month. We have provided data for all attendances at A&E departments as we do not collect separate figures for minor injuries units weekly. The data provided are from the Department's weekly SitRep management data which are not validated.

Number of attendances at all types of A&E departments, England

	A&E attendances (thousand)	Number of weeks of data collected
December 2008	1,462.9	4
December 2009	1,819.2	5

Source:

Department of Health Weekly SitReps.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been admitted to hospital in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent after being attacked by a dog in the last five years. [313509]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is unable to provide data specifically for the Ashford constituency due to low numbers, as numbers between one and five would need suppressing due to the Hospital Episode Statistics protocol. The numbers of finished admission episodes for people bitten or struck by a dog by Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 are provided in the following table.

Number of finished admission episodes (FAEs) for bitten or struck by dog by Kent PCT, 2004-05 to 2008-09: Activity in English NHS Hospital and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	West Kent PCT	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	Medway PCT	Total
2008-09	60	61	39	160
2007-08	70	55	23	148
2006-07	54	40	27	121
2005-06	51	34	25	110
2004-05	52	38	18	108

Notes:

Kent has been made up of the following PCTs:
In 2006-07 to 2008-09:
West Kent
Eastern and coastal Kent
Medway Teaching
Prior to 2006-07 West Kent was formerly made up of:
Maidstone Weald PCT
South West Kent PCT
Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT
Prior to 2006-07 Eastern and coastal Kent was formerly made up of:
Swale PCT
Ashford PCT
Canterbury and Coastal PCT
East Kent Coastal PCT
Shepway PCT
Prior to 2006-07 Medway Teaching PCT was formerly made up of:
Medway PCT

It should be noted that the number of FAEs does not represent the number of patients as a patient may have been admitted more than once within a year.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Human Tissue Act

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Human Tissue Act 2004 to ensure that the rules for informal consent apply equally to imported and exported body tissue; and if he will make a statement. [314080]

Gillian Merron: The Human Tissue Act 2004 requires that these matters be dealt with through the preparation and issue of a code of practice by the Human Tissue Authority. It remains the Government's view that this is the right approach. The Human Tissue Authority published a code of practice on the import and export of human bodies, body parts and tissue in May 2007.

In relation to imports, the code says:

> "Good practice requires that effective and reliable processes should be in place for acquiring evidence of informed consent from the prospective donor. This means that the importer should have in place policies and/or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which clearly set out the evidence indicating how informed consent was obtained, including safeguarding the confidentiality of all information relating to consent".

In relation to exports, the code says:

> "SLAs (service level agreements) should be in place to ensure that human bodies, body parts and tissue to be exported from England, Wales and Northern Ireland are used in accordance with the consent that has been obtained."

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, on medical care (veterans), what special provisions he expects mental health services to make for veterans during 2011-12. [313971]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Operating framework for the national health service in England 2010-11 makes it clear that meeting the needs of military and ex-military personnel is a reputational issue for the NHS as a whole. This includes mental health.

The NHS will be helped in this task by the results of six United Kingdom pilots that aimed to test different approaches to encouraging uptake of NHS mental health services by veterans. This will report in the next few weeks.

In addition, we are currently launching a project which will embed personnel from the Combat Stress charity into another six or seven mental health trusts to build on benefits of collaborative working between the NHS and the voluntary sector.

Commissioning responsibility for mental health care services, including any special provisions for veterans, now rests with individual primary care trusts. We do not propose to change this.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has he made of the number of former service personnel who have received treatment for mental illness in each year since 1992. [314383]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The fact that someone has served in the armed forces is not recorded within national health service information systems, so these figures are not available.

The Defence Medical Services and Department of Health will shortly introduce a new process to help service leavers register with an NHS general practitioner, including direct transfer of medical records and this will allow the individuals status as a veteran to be passed to other health workers, including within mental health services.

Multiple Sclerosis

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of research carried out by Professor Paolo Zamboni of Ferrara University into the relationship between chronic cerebro-spinal venous insufficiency and multiple sclerosis. [313624]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of this research.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £161 million allocated by his Department each primary care trust spent on commissioning extended hours services. [313881]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Final data to inform spend of the £161 million allocation by primary care trust will not be available until later in the year.

NHS: Parking

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* strategic health authorities, *(b)* acute hospital trusts and *(c)* foundation hospital trusts on the potential effects on (i) income and (ii) service provision of ending the system of car park charges at NHS facilities; and if he will make a statement. [314096]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 29 December 2009, a consultation exercise was launched by the Department on car parking for patients and their families at national health service hospitals. The consultation allows everybody, including strategic health authorities, acute hospitals and foundation trusts, to give their opinion of the potential effects of changing the system of car park charges at NHS facilities.

The NHS Car Parking: Consultation on Improving Access for Patients is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/liveconsultations/dh_110557

A copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per capita by the NHS in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [313382]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the following table for the financial years 2002-03 to 2008-09, which are the only years figures are available by individual organisation.

Table 1: Spend per capita in South Tyneside, the North East and England, 2002-03 to 2008-09

			£
	South Tyneside	North East	England
2008-09	1,784	1,700	1,499
2007-08	1,691	1,612	1,428
2006-07	1,532	1,475	1,315
2005-06	1,446	1,394	1,286
2004-05	1,316	1,272	1,183
2003-04	1,124	1,127	1,045
2002-03	[1]n/a	1,086	917

[1] A spend per capita figure for South Tyneside in 2002-03 is not available centrally, as the spend in this particular area cannot be disaggregated from the data held in respect of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic Health Authority.

Note:

Expenditure data used in the calculation of spend per capita values is taken from the audited summarisation schedules of national health service bodies, 2002-03 to 2008-09.

The amount spent by the NHS in England per capita for 1997-98 to 2001-02 is separately shown in the following table. Expenditure figures for these years are only available at a consolidated national level, from the published NHS summarised accounts. It is not possible to disaggregate spend in specific constituencies or regions from these figures.

Table 2: Spend per capita in England, 1997-98 to 2001-02

	£
	England
2001-02	915
2000-01	842
1999-2000	773
1998-99	718
1997-98	663

Nurses: Schools

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department's target for one qualified school nurse to be allocated to each secondary school and its cluster of primary schools to be met. [313915]

Ann Keen: Working in partnership across heath and education we have made good progress in expanding the qualified school nursing workforce.

Linking primary schools to their nearest secondary school gives about 3,000 clusters in England. The 2008 workforce census showed there were 3,643 (headcount) qualified nurses working in school health services, an increase of 1,234 or 51 per cent. since 2004. Of these, there were 1,447 (headcount) nurses with the post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 591 or 69 per cent. since 2004.

Workforce data for 2009 will be available on 25 March when the NHS Information Centre publishes the 2009 Workforce Census.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of full-time equivalent school nurses to pupils was in *(a)* North Cornwall constituency and *(b)* Cornwall in each year since 2004. [313916]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department does not hold data on the ratio of school nurses to pupils. However, in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (PCT), the number of full time equivalent qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work as at 30 September for each specified year, is given in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services—Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT: qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

	Full time equivalent
2004	3
2005	9
2006	13
2007	15
2008	18

Note:

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT was formed in 2006 from a completer merger of West of Cornwall PCT, North and East Cornwall PCT and Central Cornwall PCT. Figures for earlier years are an aggregate of these predecessor organisation.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified school nurses there were in *(a)* North Cornwall constituency and *(b)* Cornwall in each year since 2004. [313917]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested.

In the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (PCT), the number of qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work, as at 30 September for each specified year, is given in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services—Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT: qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

	Headcount
2004	5
2005	5
2006	17
2007	19
2008	24

Note:

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT was formed in 2006 from a completer merger of West of Cornwall PCT, North and East Cornwall PCT and Central Cornwall PCT. Figures for earlier years are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Professor Ian Gilmore has reported to his Department the conclusions of the review of prescription charges for patients with long-term conditions; and when he expects the review to be published. [313913]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Professor Gilmore has now submitted his report to the Department of Health. The recommendations are currently being considered. We will publish our response shortly.

Spina Bifida

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on research into spina bifida in each of the last three years. [313641]

Gillian Merron: The available information is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on spina bifida research

£ million

	Department of Health	*Medical Research Council*
2006-07	n/a	0.2
2007-08	0.2	0.1
2008-09	0.4	0.2

n/a = not available

The Department funds the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. One of the unit's five work streams includes research on spina bifida. It is not possible separately to identify its cost.

In addition, the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network is providing NHS research infrastructure support to one study of relevance to the question.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people with spina bifida has lived to adulthood in each of the last 10 years. [313642]

Ann Keen: Information on the survival rates for people with spina bifida is not collected centrally.

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313395]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18 weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and a NHS Health Check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Streatham constituency. For example:

Figures for November 2009 show that in Lambeth primary care trust (PCT):

91 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

97 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks.

Between September 2001 and September 2008 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 within Lambeth PCT has increased from 67.9 to 91.9.

Lambeth PCT opened one of London's first polyclinics—Gracefield Gardens Health and Social Care Centre in Streatham—in June 2008. From April 1 2009, Gracefield Gardens has offered extended opening hours, meaning that any member of the public will be able to see a GP or nurse between 8 am and 8 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust:

In September 2009, at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, 98.3 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency (A&E) from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 339 to 432. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 2,158 to 3,597.

95.9 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust:

In September 2009, at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, 98.4 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in A&E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has increased from 140 to 408. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 1,595 to 2,507.

92.7 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust:

In September 2009, at King's The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust, 98.9 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in A&E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2008 the number of consultants at The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust has increased from 68 to 103. Between September 1997 and September 2008 the estimated number of nurses has increased from 848 to 1,320.

91.4 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Streatham will have also benefited from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence;

"Shaping the Future of Care Together" Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision for a National Care Service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year;

The National Carer's Strategy—("Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities")—launched in 2008;

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009;

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009; and

"New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health"—launched in December 2009—to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data). (Source: Mortality target monitoring (life expectancy and all-age all cause mortality, overall and inequalities): update to include data from 2008.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_107609

Stress

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to his Department's staff on stress recognition and management. [313983]

Phil Hope: The Department provides guidance to all staff and managers on stress recognition and stress management on the Departmental intranet. A text version of this guidance has been placed in the Library.

In addition the Department offers a free counselling service as part of its employee assistance programme that gives free and confidential support to any member of staff who feel they need it.

Tamiflu

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how long he expects his Department to continue to issue free Tamiflu medication. [313423]

Gillian Merron: We intend to continue to distribute antivirals to patients with swine flu symptoms free of charge until the end of the seasonal flu period in 2010, i.e. the end of March 2010. The current working assumption is that antiviral policy will revert to normal from 1 April 2010 onwards, although we will keep the situation under close review.

Urinary System: Screening

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of tests for urinary tract infection carried out in each of the last three years for which figures are available and *(b)* cost of those tests. [313415]

Ann Keen: Information on the number or cost of such tests is not collected centrally.

Weather: Death

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of excess deaths attributable to cold weather in January 2010. [313159]

Gillian Merron: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) releases provisional mortality statistics for the previous winter every following autumn. These figures are placed on the ONS website once published. It is not possible to get exact figures earlier than this due to time delays from death certification.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* empty and *(b)* occupied residential properties his Department owns; and what the (i) potential annual rental and (ii) total book value is of those (A) empty and (B) occupied residential properties. [313792]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) owns eight residential properties, all of which are occupied.

DFID does not keep information on potential annual rental of its properties. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

The Total Book Value of occupied residential properties when our Resource Accounts were last published on 31 March 2009 was £9.2 million.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many employees in his Department are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313238]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently has two members of staff in transition.

They have both been in transition since November 2009 and we anticipate redeployment to a new DFID post within the next few days.

DFID formalised its policies on the management of surplus staff in the summer of 2009. DFID has not exited staff in transition in the past five years and it has not been necessary to estimate salary costs for staff in transition during this period.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313670]

Mr. Michael Foster: The requested information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department for International Development (DFID) endeavours to answer all parliamentary questions on time. We record and regularly report to the Leader of the House on the number of ordinary written and named day questions received and the number of such questions answered on time and late.

Haiti: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of the earthquake in Haiti on the capacity for the transfer of remittance payments from the UK to that country. [313556]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have received reports that remittance agencies and banks in the Port-au-Prince area began opening again on 22 January. However, we are still in the emergency relief phase of the operation and it is still too early to estimate when payments systems will be fully operational in Haiti.

The United States, in contrast to the United Kingdom, is a large source of remittances for Haiti and is looking closely at how best to facilitate cost effective wire transfers from the United States. We will do all we can to support the UN and Government of Haiti in drawing attention to this important issue, as well as supporting the re-establishment of communications and remittance networks.

Israel

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions since the end of Operation Cast Lead Ministers from his Department have visited Israel; and if he will make a statement. [314073]

Mr. Michael Foster: I visited Israel in January 2009 and the Secretary of State for International Development visited in March 2009.

Palestinians: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will send a Minister from his Department to Gaza to assess the humanitarian situation there; and if he will make a statement. [314072]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are no immediate plans for a Minister from the Department for International Development (DFID) to visit Gaza. Officials from DFID regularly visit Gaza to assess the humanitarian situation. We also maintain close and regular contact with UN agencies and NGOs who are active in Gaza in order to contribute to our assessment of the situation.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 467W, on Palestinians: overseas aid, for how long he was in Gaza on 1 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [314075]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State for International Development spent around three hours in Gaza, where he visited a number of locations which had been damaged during the conflict.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Government of Egypt and *(b)* Palestinian authorities on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [313435]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not had any recent discussions with the Government of Egypt regarding the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. We believe Israel continues to have obligations as an occupying power with respect to Gaza, and that the main responsibility for ensuring humanitarian access to Gaza therefore lies with Israel rather than Egypt.

In mid-January, DFID's director responsible for the Middle East discussed the issue of support for Gaza with Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Fayyad and with the PA Minister for Planning and Development. DFID's office in Jerusalem also participates in regular meetings of the Humanitarian Task Force, in which the delivery of humanitarian aid to both Gaza and the West Bank is discussed between the UN, donors and the PA.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the authorities in Somalia on the humanitarian situation in that country; and if he will make a statement. [313436]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are very concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia. The United Nations estimate that 3.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. I met a delegation of Ministers, led by the Somali Prime Minister Omar Abdurashid Ali Sharmarke, in October 2009 and discussed the humanitarian situation in the country. Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) also discuss these issues with the Somali authorities and international partners in Nairobi on a regular basis.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Foreign Relations

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo on Joshua French; and if he will make a statement. [313763]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no discussions between the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on this matter.

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for International Development, raised our opposition to the death penalty with the President of the DRC during his visit to the DRC in September 2009. Our ambassador to the DRC and other British officials have also raised our concerns with the Government of the DRC regarding the death penalty. They have also raised concerns over alleged mistreatment and over aspects of the trial process.

We are opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances. Where a British national faces the death penalty, we will make representations at whatever stage and level is deemed appropriate. We understand that the DRC has imposed a moratorium on the death penalty and hope that this will remain the case.

We are cooperating with the Norwegian authorities on this case. The welfare of Joshua French remains our priority.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313667]

Chris Bryant: In the calendar year 2009, the figures were six sitting days and five sitting days respectively.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials take very seriously their responsibility to reply to parliamentary questions on time, and we have introduced new management and procedures which have improved our performance.

In December 2009, 90 per cent. of written answers were cleared for reply within five sitting days, and 75 per cent. of named day questions were cleared for reply on the specified date.

EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any competences have been returned from EU to national level as a result of the application of the principle of subsidiarity since the Treaty on European Union came into effect. [313750]

Chris Bryant: The principle of subsidiarity is not a mechanism for "returning powers' to the member states, but for determining whether or not Community action should be set in motion.

The member states, through the EU treaties, set the EU certain tasks and give it the powers to achieve those tasks. Article 5 of the treaty establishing the European Community states that, in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Community shall take action, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the member states and can therefore, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved by the Community.

Further guidelines for assessing whether these requirements are met are laid down by the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Protocol also requires the Commission to justify the relevance of any of its legislative proposals with regard to the principle of subsidiarity.

The Lisbon Treaty strengthens the role of national parliaments in EU decision-making, so that for the first time national parliaments could challenge draft EU legislation on subsidiarity grounds. It is for Parliament to decide how to exercise its rights under these procedures.

The Lisbon Treaty also, for the first time, empowered member states to withdraw from the European Union.

Gaza

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since the end of Operation Cast Lead UK diplomats from *(a)* the UK Embassy in Tel Aviv and *(b)* the British Consulate in Jerusalem have visited Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [314074]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: British officials based in Jerusalem and, to a lesser extent, Tel Aviv, have visited Gaza on more than 20 occasions since January 2009. Our Consulate General in Jerusalem also has two members of local staff permanently based in Gaza.

Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what results he has received on the *(a)* length, *(b)* characteristics, *(c)* legality under international law and *(d)* effect on human rights of the Saharawi people of the structure erected between Guerguerat and Oued Drâa. [312349]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: With regard to parts *(a)* and *(b)* of the question I refer the hon. Member to the website of the UN peacekeeping mission to Western Sahara (MINURSO):

http://www.minurso.unlb.org/berm.html

This details factual information on the length of the berm, the materials it is made of and its history.

With regard to part *(c)* of the question, the UK regards the status of the disputed territory of Western Sahara as undetermined and continues to believe progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. Any issues relating to "the berm" will need to be resolved and considered in that context.

With regard to part *(d)* of the question we continue to believe that greater openness and transparency on human rights by all the parties to the dispute would create a significantly better environment for political dialogue. Both sides have imperfect records on human rights. Morocco's record in Western Sahara has improved in recent years, but more needs to be done to provide equality of opportunity for the people of the territory. We welcome the efforts of the parties, in partnership with MINURSO and NGOs, to reduce the threat posed by mines and unexploded ordnance in the region of the berm. We also support the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, in his efforts to build confidence between the parties, including encouragement to cooperate with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees towards establishing family visits by land.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on people-trafficking in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Yemen and *(c)* Pakistan with representatives from each of those countries. [313617]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions on people trafficking with representatives of Bangladesh, Yemen or Pakistan. This is a Home Office policy lead.

Officials from both departments do have regular contact with their opposite numbers from these countries on a range of migration and trafficking related issues.

Israel

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since the end of Operation Cast Lead Ministers from his Department have visited Israel; and if he will make a statement. [314071]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I visited both Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories once each, in August 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last visited the region in November 2008.

Ogaden: Politics and Government

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Ogaden. [314052]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government remain concerned by the situation in the Ogaden. Conflict continues between the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and Ethiopian Government forces, and access to the region is tightly controlled. We have serious concerns over alleged human rights abuses in the region and over the humanitarian situation.

The UK has called on the Ethiopian government to undertake a credible and independent investigation into the alleged abuses, so that they can be addressed where they are found to have taken place, whether committed by the Government or by ONLF forces. We have also highlighted the pressing need for humanitarian agencies, in particular, to have adequate access to the region.

Shipping: Pay

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice he has obtained on the law of the sea and the application of the national minimum wage to seafarers working on foreign-flagged ships operating between two UK ports. [313368]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Lord Malloch-Brown, then Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, wrote to the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress on 24 July 2009, explaining the legal position regarding the application of the national minimum wage to seafarers working on foreign-flagged vessels in the territorial sea, including when operating between two UK ports.

I am arranging for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Ex-servicemen

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many ex-service personnel have received funding from the £5 million enterprise support programme announced in paragraph 4.51 of the 2009 Pre-Budget Report; and how much of the funding allocated has been spent. [311942]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* Funding from the Enterprise Support Programme will be available in financial year 2010/11, so no one has received funding as yet. In the meantime, enterprise support is available to ex-service personnel via Business Link.

Business: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent industrial action by Royal Mail employees on small businesses in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent. [313521]

Mr. McFadden: It is clear that industrial action by Royal Mail staff has an impact on those customers that heavily rely on Royal Mail services and we are aware that many small businesses throughout the country use postal services on a daily basis.

The Government want to see a successful outcome to the ongoing discussions between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union and we welcome the efforts of Roger Poole (former Assistant General Secretary of NUPE and of Unison and Chairman of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland) as an independent third party in overseeing the current process of talks.

It is essential for both parties to keep talking until an agreement is made on a way forward on the next phase of modernisation, which everyone accepts is vital for Royal Mail's future.

Business: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance the Northwest Regional Development Agency has provided to businesses in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency in respect of the economic downturn. [311561]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) established in 1999 has provided extensive support to businesses across the region including in the Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. The NWDA's main support for businesses is through regionally available "Solutions for Business" products in which the agency invested £92.75 million in 2008/09. The "Solutions for Business" portfolio includes: business finance, improving innovation and efficiency, business start-up, advice on international trade, work force training, and sector development through regional cluster organisations. The primary access point is Business Link which provides companies with information, diagnostics and brokerage to specific types of support. In a direct response to the downturn Business Link can respond to emergencies within 24 hours and utilise the region's "rapid response team" if required. The agency and Business Link have also been working with partners such as chambers of commerce and local authorities to promote business support services and share intelligence on companies and sectors which have been impacted by the downturn. The NWDA has also worked with the banks and doubled its investment in business finance in 2009/10. The NWDA is tackling short-term economic problems whilst also taking a long-term view in line with the Government's New Industry, New Jobs policy which promotes investment in growth sectors to compete in the global economy.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313217]

Mr. McFadden: Government Departments and agencies and non-departmental public bodies that have Crown status, make most of their information available for free re-use under the PSI Click-Use Licence. Government trading funds, such as the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), for which BIS have ministerial responsibility, are able under their trading fund status to charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs. This covers information and its supply provided to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals. In common with other Government policy, some information is sold as priced publications.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Department's executive agencies and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Information on Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) is not held centrally and due to the number of NDPBs, this would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 25 January 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 20 January 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office makes available value added public domain information it has relating to Patents, Trade Marks and other Intellectual Property on normal commercial terms to companies, individuals and other bodies. It also has some publications on commercial terms covering the latest developments in IP law. This represents a small part of the Trading Fund's business.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 20 January 2010, UIN 313217, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House sells details of directors, copies of annual accounts, incorporation documents and other company information to members of the public, companies or public sector organisations. This is sold on a cost recovery basis.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 22 January 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 20/01/2010 [reference 2009/1032] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking whether the agency sells information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations.

The agency does not sell any information to any companies, individuals or organisations. Information that we previously charged for hard copies is now available free by download from on our website. We provide certain information such as our annual report free of charge to the Office of Public Sector Information, which makes a charge for hard copy material through The Stationery Office. We make this information available as free downloads from our website.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

I write with reference to your question, raised in Parliament, in which you asked:

"To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether (a) agencies and (b) non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations."

I have been asked to respond to your query as Chief Executive of The Insolvency Service.

Before responding in detail, however, I should clarify that the Insolvency Service does not sell any of the information it holds on a commercial basis.

The main database of information published by my agency is the electronic Individual Insolvency Register (eIIR), which holds details of:

Current bankruptcies, and those which have ended within the last three months;

Current individual voluntary arrangements and fast track voluntary arrangements;

Debt Relief Orders; and

Current bankruptcy restrictions orders and undertakings.

Access to the register is freely available through the Insolvency Service's website, http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/bankruptcy/bankruptcysearch.htm, and no charge is made to view the data.

The full database of information is also available in a processed format, for which an administrative charge is levied. The charge is calculated on a cost recovery basis.

I trust that the above information will prove useful to you.

Departmental Information Officers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* press officers and *(b)* communications staff were employed by his Department (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the cost of employing these staff was in each such year. [309926]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Press officers

The number of press officers currently at BIS is 27. This combines the press offices from the former BERR and former DIUS. The press office co-ordinates all the media handling for the Department's current 10 Ministers and the Government Chief Scientific Adviser.

The number of press officers in previous years was:

2008: 17 BERR; 13 DIUS

2007: 16 (DTI/BERR)

2006: 17 (DTI)

2005: 18 (DTI)

2004: 19 (DTI)

The total staffing costs for press office staff for the former BERR, DIUS and DTI are:

		£
2008/09	BERR	1,080,000
2008/09	DIUS	766,000
2007/08	DTI/BERR	1,261,000
2006/07	DTI	1,023,000
2005/06	DTI	992,000
2004/05	DTI	871,000

This includes staff costs for press officers and support staff working in the press office. A breakdown of costs for press officers and non press officers could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

(b) Communications staff

The total number of full time equivalent communications staff currently at BIS, excluding press officers, is 74. This figure covers staff in the central communications directorate employed in communications roles, excluding support staff, secondees and agency staff. Communications roles currently include strategy and planning, internal communications, strategic marketing, stakeholder liaison and digital communications.

Figures for the number of communications staff employed in the last five years cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Total staffing costs for staff in the central communications directorate, excluding press office costs.

		£
2008/09	BERR	1,842,000
2008/09	DIUS (marketing team)	1,105,000
2007/08	DTI/BERR	2,073,000
2006/07	DTI	1,945,000
2005/06	DTI	1,842,000
2004/05	DTI (excluding internal communications)	1,879,000

Departmental Video Conferencing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what process was involved in procuring the installation of video conferencing and telepresence facilities in Kingsgate House; and which companies were invited to take part in that process. [304481]

Mr. McFadden: The procurement and installation of the video conferencing and telepresence facilities when implemented in Kingsgate House were undertaken using an existing video conferencing contract the Department for Children, Schools and Families had in place at the time with British Telecom and no formal competition was therefore necessary.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many vid[illegible]rencing screens there are as part of the telepresence facilities in Kingsgate House. [304482]

Mr. McFadden: For the telepresence facilities only one large video conferencing screen is used.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313655]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested cannot be obtained on either the Department's database system nor the Parliamentary Information Management System (PIMS) and could only be obtained by manual checking at disproportionate cost.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the third report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

Employee Engagement Review

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assistance his Department is providing to encourage implementation of the recommendations of the MacLeod review of employee engagement by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and whether his Department plans to provide funding for SMEs for such purposes after March 2010; [313920]

(2) whether his Department plans to provide funding for the implementation of the recommendations of the MacLeod review of employee engagement from the end of March 2010. [313921]

Mr. McFadden: The Department is currently implementing the recommendations from the MacLeod Review report 'Engaging for Success'. The Government have committed to implementation by March 2010.

Our objectives in implementing the MacLeod recommendations are to make the business case for engagement; to provide practical support for businesses who wish to go down the engagement route; and to make that help as widely accessible as possible.

To that end, a campaign to raise awareness among businesses—in particular SMEs—of the benefits of adopting employee engagement practices was launched in the autumn—featuring regional and national media and events, and focused around a dedicated campaign website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/employeeengagement

At the same time, we have been developing a range of "quick start" guides on engagement for businesses. Focused on the key themes from the MacLeod Report—Leadership; Engaging Managers; Employee Voice; and Organisational Integrity—these will be launched on the BusinessLink.gov website in March. We are working with other mainstream providers of advice and support to businesses—both inside and outside Government—to ensure that these guides reach as wide an audience as possible; and to guarantee that practical support and guidance on employee engagement remains readily available to employers in the future. More generally, the Department's support for SMEs will continue longer term through the guidance and tools on the Business Link.gov website, the Solutions for Business portfolio of business support products and its National Skills strategy.

Foreign Investment in UK

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of foreign direct investment into the UK was *(a)* in the electricity generation sector and *(b)* in Wales in the last 12 months; and how many of the companies making such investment received allocations from the UK Innovation Investment Fund. [314191]

Ian Lucas: Table 5.3 of the Office for National Statistics publication MA4 gave the flow of foreign direct investment into the United Kingdom in electricity, gas and water as £12.35 billion in 2007, about 13 per cent. of the total that year. These figures are due to be revised when estimates for 2008 are published on Thursday 4 February.

The ONS does not subdivide its foreign direct investment statistics between different parts of the UK. The Welsh Assembly Government commissioned an Empirical Investigation of Foreign Direct Investment in Wales from the University of Wales Swansea, and this can be read at:

http://wales.gov.uk/docs//dfm/research/090701foreign directinvestmenten.pdf

None of these businesses have received funding from UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF). We expect UKIIF to begin investing in technology based businesses during the first quarter of 2010.

Higher Education: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has provided for *(a)* teaching, *(b)* research and *(c)* staff development for (i) Newcastle and (ii) Northumbria universities since 2004-05. [314003]

Mr. Lammy: Funding made available to these universities by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Research Councils are as follows:

£

	Teaching grant (HEFCE)	*Staff development (HEFCE)*	*Research grant (HEFCE)*	*Research Councils*
University of Newcastle				
2004-05	50,252,943	3,499,150	27,524,280	12,230,000
2005-06	52,005,533	4,484,582	30,671,707	15,067,000
2006-07	60,054,818	[1]—	32,125,761	19,078,000
2007-08	63,689,772	[1]—	32,913,752	22,345,000
2008-09	64,866,781	[1]—	33,981,019	28,159,000
University of Northumbria				
2004-05	47,546,785	2,710,285	949,402	240,000
2005-06	49,150,300	3,566,165	1,146,418	164,000
2006-07	56,502,160	[1]—	1,255,044	288,000
2007-08	58,048,517	[1]—	1,394,291	423,000
2008-09	60,695,821	[1]—	1,346,425	644,000

[1] This allocation from 2006-07 onwards is part of HEFCE's teaching grant and is not identified separately.

Insolvency

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Insolvency Service and *(b)* administrators on the obligations to their creditors of successor companies to failed companies under pre-pack administration arrangements. [311751]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service is an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and has policy responsibility for insolvency matters. The Insolvency Service carries out the Secretary of State's function with regard to both the direct authorisation of insolvency practitioners and the regulation of the recognised professional bodies that authorise the vast majority of insolvency practitioners. The Department has therefore not had any direct liaison with administrators nor the recognised professional bodies on the issue of pre-packs as this has been undertaken by the Insolvency Service.

New disclosure requirements aimed at improving the transparency of pre-packaged administrations were introduced on 1 January 2009, in SIP (Statement of Insolvency Practice) 16. The Insolvency Service is examining all information received from insolvency practitioners in relation to disclosures made under SIP 16, and is working closely with the recognised professional bodies to improve insolvency practitioners' compliance with the SIP. A report on the first six months' operation of the SIP was published by the Insolvency Service in July 2009 and may be accessed through:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/insolvencyprofessionand legislation/policychange/sip16-final.pdf

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to assess the effects on small business creditors of the implementation of pre-pack administrations, with particular reference to *(a)* turnover and *(b)* numbers of jobs. [311756]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service is an Executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and has policy responsibility for insolvency matters.

The Insolvency Service has made no specific assessment of the impact of pre-packaged administrations on small business creditors in relation to their turnover or number of jobs. However, it is not the pre-pack transaction that causes the loss to small business creditors, but the insolvency of the company.

In addition, the Office of Fair Trading has recently launched a market study into the corporate insolvency market. The study will look into the structure of the market and any features in the market which could result in harm, such as higher fees or lower recovery rates for certain groups of creditors.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* UK banks in which the Government holds shares and *(b)* other UK banks on standardising the banking services they offer through the Post Office network; and if he will make a statement. [313804]

Mr. McFadden: A number of UK banks offer accounts which can be accessed through post offices. We are working with Post Office Ltd. to expand the banking services offered by Post Office Ltd.

UK Trade and Investment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* Government Office region have received services since 1 April 2008. [312236]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) services delivered by the English regions including Passport, English Regions Trade Advisers, MVS and charged services delivered through UKTI's overseas network are publicly available by Government office region on a quarterly basis from UKTI's Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey (PIMS) at:

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/pims

Services delivered since 1 April 2008 are captured by PIMS waves 13 onwards.

For example:

Passport

Firms supported	*East midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*North-east*	*North-west*	*South-east*	*South-west*	*West midlands*	*Yorks*
PIMS 13 (April to June 2008)	34	54	73	20	48	61	41	49	45
PIMS 14 (July to September 2008)	62	72	56	43	102	72	50	60	46
PIMS 15 (October to December 2008)	36	52	37	57	57	44	51	66	44
PIMS 16 (January to March 2009)	29	46	48	18	54	54	56	40	34
PIMS 17 (April to June 2009)	46	53	42	8	58	61	58	25	35

OMIS

Firms supported	*East Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*North-east*	*North-west*	*South-east*	*South-west*	*West midlands*	*Yorks*
PIMS 13 (April to June 2008)	70	68	150	61	60	119	64	63	63
PIMS 14 (July to September 2008)	76	69	167	53	65	102	56	70	63
PIMS 15 (October to December 2008)	74	81	188	87	79	145	65	59	59
PIMS 16 (January to March 2009)	77	82	169	68	68	117	61	63	47

OMIS

Firms supported	*East Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*North-east*	*North-west*	*South-east*	*South-west*	*West midlands*	*Yorks*
PIMS 17 (April to June 2009)	67	79	217	47	82	141	72	72	61

MVS

Firms supported	*East midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*North-east*	*North-west*	*South-east*	*South-west*	*West midlands*	*Yorks*
PIMS 14 (July to September 2008)	21	18	25	2	7	5	0	7	5
PIMS 15 (October to December 2008)	32	32	40	33	22	61	11	21	17
PIMS 16 (January to March 2009)	84	8	78	8	25	90	53	19	17
PIMS 17(April to June 2009)	53	29	25	10	11	28	29	27	56

Figures for constituency or local authority areas are not currently available.

Video Games: Trade Fairs

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the funding allocated to UK Trade and Investment's Trade Assistance Programme in 2008-09 was spent on assistance for UK video games businesses to exhibit at overseas trade shows. [313192]

Ian Lucas: Through UK Trade and Investment's Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) £57,000 was spent on assisting UK video games businesses exhibit at overseas exhibitions in financial year 2008-09.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 29 January 2010

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what average time her Office took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313672]

Barbara Keeley: The average time taken by the Office of the Leader of the House to answer ordinary written parliamentary questions between January 2009 and December 2009 was 3.2 days. 100 per cent. of the ordinary written questions during this period were answered within the working week target. All named day questions were answered on time.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the 3rd report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

SCOTLAND

Roads: Snow and Ice

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the cross-border provision of winter road salt supplies; and on what dates. [314401]

Ann McKechin: The Department for Transport, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have been regularly monitoring salt supplies and stock levels across Great Britain with the help of their agencies, local authorities and the companies which supply salt. The Government and the devolved Administrations decided that due to the exceptional weather they should work in partnership to advise salt suppliers on priorities for deliveries across Great Britain.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Poverty

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were living in poverty in Salford in each year since 1993; and what the percentage change in this figure was from each year to the next. [313323]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of poverty for children are published in the households below average income (HBAI) series. These figures only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information is not available for Salford.

The number of children living in poverty (in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary household income, before housing costs) in the north-west Government office region can be found in the following table. These data are based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Please note that because regional figures are presented as three-year averages, a percentage change between each year is not available. Data are not available prior to 1994.

	Number of children in poverty (million)
1993/94 to 1995/96	n/a
1994/95 to 1996/97	0.5
1995/96 to 1997/98	0.5
1996/97 to 1998/99	0.5
1997/98 to 1999/2000	0.5
1998/99 to 2000/01	0.5
1999/2000 to 2001/02	0.4
2000/01 to 2002/03	0.4
2001/02 to 2003/04	0.4
2002/03 to 2004/05	0.4
2003/04 to 2005/06	0.4
2004/05 to 2006/07	0.4
2005/06 to 2007/08	0.4

n/a = Not available

A local child poverty indicator has been developed to try and replicate this national measure as closely as possible. It captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income. Details can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

Children: Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures are in place to ensure that assessments of risk to children undertaken by local authorities assess all close family members. [304155]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006) sets out the processes to be followed when undertaking an assessment of a child who is suspected to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. That assessment will include consideration of the capacity of the parents or caregivers to respond appropriately to the identified needs of the child. This may involve interviews with the child's parents or caregivers and with those known to the child, for example members of the wider family. It may also include interviews with professionals or other people who know the child's parents or caregivers.

Children's Centres: Eltham

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated in respect of children's centres in Eltham constituency since their introduction. [314396]

Dawn Primarolo: Greenwich local authority is responsible for Sure Start Children's Centres across its area and will decide how much funding to allocate to centres in Eltham constituency.

The first Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were set up in 1999-2000. The SSLPs received a single capital allocation for the period 1999-2000 to 2005-06. Greenwich local authority was allocated £3,913,042.

Data on the SSLP revenue allocations prior to the introduction of the Sure Start IT system in 2003-04 are not readily available at a local authority level. Greenwich's SSLP revenue allocations from 2003-04 are shown in table 1.

Table 1. Sure Start Local Programme revenue allocations for Greenwich local authority

	£ SSLP revenue allocation
2003-04	3,029,775
2004-05	3,550,810
2005-06	3,738,775
2006-07	3,541,783
2007-08	3,008,185
2008-09	3,034,536
2009-10	2,680,923

Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres was made available from 2003-04. The Children's Centres allocations for Greenwich are shown in table 2.

Table 2. Sure Start Children's Centres allocations for Greenwich local authority

	Capital	Revenue	£ Total
2003-04	0	52,500	52,500
2004-06[1]	3,496,687	1,318,028	4,814,715
2006-07	[2]1,431,584	2,797,260	4,228,844
2007-08	[2]2,889,676	2,876,399	5,766,075
2008-09	378,553	4,898,580	5,277,133
2009-10	781,204	6,175,905	6,957,109

[1] Local authorities received a two year allocation for 2004-06.

[2] The 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocations are for the wider Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Main Capital Block.

From 2006-07 Children's Centres Capital formed part of the wider Main Capital Funding Block. Funding in this block is not ring fenced and the authority has the freedom to decide how much of their total capital allocation to spend on children's centres, in line with local priorities. This allocation was not broken down further in 2006-07 and 2007-08. The Main Capital allocation has been quoted for 2006-07 and 2007-08 in table 1.

The Main Capital Block included funding for child care sustainability and extended schools as well as for Children's Centres in 2006-07 and 2007-08. From 2008-09 the block comprised funding for Children's Centres, early years provision, child care and integrated projects (those which support more than one policy objective). Funding in the Main Capital Block is not ring fenced and local authorities have the freedom to decide how much to spend on children's centres in line with local priorities.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total cost was of bonuses paid through the education maintenance allowance for submitting course work on time in *(a)* North Cornwall constituency and *(b)* Cornwall in the latest period for which figures are available. [313918]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoff Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for North Cornwall with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries. Since 2008, the conditions for all EMA payments have included behaviour and effort as well as attendance. We have never stipulated that bonuses are only payable where a student has submitted all coursework on time. The decision to award a bonus payment is made by the learning provider and the reasons behind individual decisions are not held centrally.

Extra-curricular Activities: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated for the provision of extra-curricular activities in schools in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* Torbay constituency in each year since 1997. [313332]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to every school providing access to a core offer of extended services, including a varied menu of extra-curricular activities from 8 am to 6 pm, by 2010. My Department has provided significant funding to support the delivery of extended services, including over £1 billion in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. The table sets out the extended services funding allocated from 2003-04, the start of the Full Service Extended School pilot, to 2010-11 for local authorities in the Government Office South West region, and Torbay.

This funding is passed to local authorities to support the development of the core extended services offer in every school. The exact amount of funding spent on extra-curricular activities, as part of supporting delivery of the broader extended services core offer, is a matter for local decision making by local authorities and schools.

£

Extended schools revenue	*South West*	*Torbay*
2002-03	200,000	0
2003-04	155,000	0
2004-05	1,334,972	168,480
2005-06	9,212,998	331,276
2006-07	10,456,178	432,034
2007-08	10,947,207	334,364
2008-09	23,525,667	739,491
2009-10	33,991,312	998,051
2010-11	40,620,347	1,213,385

Note:
Funding in 2003-04 to 2005-06 was for the Full Service Extended Schools Pilot.

Families

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding he plans to allocate to the new support activities for families referred to in Chapter six of his Department's Green Paper, Support for All. [313543]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding for the new support activities for families as outlined in Chapter 6 in Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper has been allocated from current budgets. These include:

£122 million on Family Intervention Projects between 2006-07 – 2010-11;

£60 million on the Family Information Direct (formerly ParentKnowHow) programme which provides information and advice for families (including grandparents and family and friends carers) between 2008-09 – 2010-11; and

£1.135 billion in revenue funding and £101 million in capital funding for Sure Start Children's Centres and Local Programmes in 2010-11.

Family Fund

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided through the Family Fund in each of the last five years; what assessment he has made of the level of take-up of such funding by low-income families with one or more severely disabled children; and when he last met the Chief Executive of the Family Fund. [309985]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Family Fund Trust (FFT) (England) provides grants to families with severely disabled children or young people under 18. Families are eligible to apply for grants if they have an annual income of less than £23,000 before tax. Over the last five years the FFT has received the following in grant funding from the Department:

	£ million
2005/06	22.8
2006/07	22.8
2007/08	22.8
2008/09	24.4
2009/10	25.0

As a result of commitments in The Children's Plan, the FFT was allocated an additional £8.4 million, payable over the current CSR period; with this additional funding the FFT changed the eligibility criteria for receipt of grants to include families with disabled children/young people under 18. Prior to that grants were made to families with disabled children under 16. The additional funding has been reflected in the table above.

Since extending eligibility criteria, the FFT have awarded grants to an additional 2,586 16-year-olds in 2008-09. Their target for 2009-10 is to issue between 4,750 and 5,000 grants to 16 and 17-year-olds.

The total numbers of families helped by FFT over the last five years are as follows:

Family fund trust—England

	Number of families helped
2005/06	35,740
2006/07	38,857
2007/08	37,007
2008/09	38,889
2009/10	Not available

The FFT is required to provide the Department with annual accounts and details of its activities during the year, which is reviewed by officials. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families last meet with the chief executive of the Family Fund Trust on 16 April 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to reply to the letter dated 24 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Father Tom Connod. [310493]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department of Children, Schools and Families try to respond to all correspondence within 15 working days. We regret the delay in this matter. The Department has identified the letter in question and has sent a response on 20 January.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: Public Appointments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the curriculum vitae of the head of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. [312042]

Dawn Primarolo: Jacky Tiotto, the Head of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit is a qualified social worker by profession. She has held a number of senior positions in London local authorities, and as a practitioner specialised in work with vulnerable children and those in need of protection, working in residential, field and hospital services. Most recently she was the Director for Children and Learners at the Government Office for London, having previously worked for the Department for Children, Schools and Families where she had been seconded as a deputy director leading on performance and improvement and then as a professional adviser to Lord Laming on his progress report on safeguarding children in England. Earlier posts include senior national adviser for children and adult services at the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), and performance specialist at the Audit Commission. Her CV contains personal information and its disclosure would be likely to contravene the Data Protection Act.

Non-Formal Learning

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the merits of non-formal learning; and if he will make a statement; [301869]

(2) whether he plans to establish a system of formal accreditation for the non-formal learning undertaken by children outside school. [301870]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department believes that every young person should experience non-formal learning as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances. In 2008, through the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) manifesto, the Department funded 'Every Experience Matters'—an evidence-based review on the role of learning outside the classroom for children's whole development from birth to 18 years.

The report demonstrates the important role that LOtC could have in raising young people's engagement by drawing on research from around the globe and providing evidence that children achieve higher academically, have greater levels of physical fitness, increased confidence and self-esteem, show leadership qualities, and have greater engagement and motivation in learning. The report is available at

www.lotc.org.uk

Where a child is educated at home on a full time basis the level of formality will vary according to the wishes of the parent and the needs of the child. Some parents will adopt a more child led approach to learning while others will prefer a more formal approach or something that takes in elements of a range of different approaches. In each case the education provided must be suitable to the age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs that the child may have. It will not always be possible to distinguish between formal learning and non-formal learning in this context.

There are no plans to establish a formal system to accredit non-formal learning undertaken by children outside of school.

Social Services: Haringey

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates his Department received drafts of Ofsted reports into Haringey children's services in November and December 2008. [308100]

Dawn Primarolo: Ofsted published the report of a joint area review of services for children and young people in Haringey, undertaken with the Healthcare Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, on 1 December 2008. The Department received a final draft of the report for information on 30 November 2008. Ofsted published a letter, informing Haringey local authority of its annual performance assessment of services for children and young people, on 17 December 2008. The Department saw no draft of the letter.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Stationery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [314209]

Mr. Simon: The Department's expenditure on stationery for financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 is set out in the table.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2004-05	130,300
2005-06	147,130
2006-07	110,560
2007-08	69,210
2008-09	68,380

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she expects the London Secure Communications Network to be fully implemented. [313599]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Home Secretary gave on 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1550W.

The implementation of the Olympic enhancements for the UK-wide Airwave radio system continues to progress according to schedule and will be ready for the 2012 Games.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets her Department has set for local authorities on the *(a)* administration and *(b)* collection of housing benefit. [314323]

Helen Goodman: The Department for Work and Pensions does not set targets on housing benefit administration and collection. The Department encourages and supports local authorities to set their own targets to achieve and maintain an effective housing benefit service for customers and taxpayers.

Mesothelioma

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of asbestos-related mesothelioma have been recorded in London in the last 10 years. [313767]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The total number of mesothelioma deaths where the last residence of the deceased was recorded as being within the Government Office for London region[1] between 1998 and 2007 (the latest year for which data are available) was 1761 (source: HSE, British Mesothelioma Register). The great majority of these will be due to asbestos exposure but there is evidence to suggest a small number of cases have some other unidentified cause.

[1] The Government Office for London region includes both inner and outer London boroughs.

Mesothelioma: Death Certificates

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many death certificates mentioning mesothelioma as *(a)* primary cause of death and *(b)* secondary cause of death have been issued in each of the last 10 years. [313768]

Jonathan Shaw: *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The number of mesothelioma deaths each year from 2001 to 2007 (the latest year for which data are available) where mesothelioma was recorded as *(a)* the underlying cause of death and *(b)* an associated cause of death, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Mesothelioma deaths in Great Britain recorded as such in the underlying or associated causes of deaths, 2001-2007

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]
Underlying cause	1,758	1,763	1,801	1,866	1,919	1,942	2,035
Associated cause	99	96	66	94	120	102	107

[1] Provisional

Source:

Health and Safety Executive British Mesothelioma Register

It is not possible to separately identify from readily available data the number of mesothelioma deaths before 2001 in each category since mesothelioma was not included within the framework used for classifying causes of death before then. A small number of deaths occur each year where mesothelioma is mentioned on the death certificate but not recorded as either the underlying or associated cause of death.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) which guided busways are in service in each local authority area; on what date each commenced operations; and what the length of each is; [312525]

(2) what guided busways have been approved for construction; when each is projected to open; and what the projected length of each [illegible] [312526]

(3) what assessments his Department has made of the safety of operation of guided busways; and who has carried out the assessments undertaken for his Department. [312527]

Mr. Khan: There are currently five guided bus systems in operation in England. Details on when these started operations and the length are in the following table:

Name of scheme	*Local authority*	*Date scheme opened*	*Length of guided bus section*
Leeds "Superbus"	Leeds city council	1995	1.5 km of segregated bus guideway
Ipswich	Suffolk county council	1995	200 metre section
Leeds "Elite"	Leeds city council	2001	2 km of segregated bus guideway
Bradford "A641 Manchester Road Quality Bus Initiative"	Bradford metropolitan district council	2002	2.3 km of guided busway.
Crawley "Fastway"	West Sussex county council	2003	2.2 km of guided busway

The Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, which includes 25 kilometres of guided busway, was given funding approval by the Department in 2006 and construction is now under way with the scheme expected to be completed and open for operation in 2010.

No assessments to date have been undertaken by the Department with regards to the safety of operation of guided busways. Guided busways are exempt from the requirements of the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety Regulations) 2006 and it is, therefore, the responsibility of the promoter of the scheme to satisfy itself that safety systems are appropriate both prior to the system commencing and once in operation.

Cycling: Helmets

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the safety case for children to wear cycle helmets. [313813]

Paul Clark: The Department commissioned a research project on cyclists' road safety, which included a new review of cycle helmet effectiveness.

The review concludes that, assuming cycle helmets are a good fit and worn correctly they should be effective at reducing the risk of head injury, in particular cranium fracture, scalp injury and intracranial (brain) injury for users of all ages but would be expected to be particularly effective for children.

The full review of the evidence was published on 15 December 2009 and can be found online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/ppr446.pdf

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312821]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has nine layers of management reporting from Permanent Secretary down to Executive Officer. The table below shows how many officials are employed in each such layer and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year.

Management layer/ grade	*Staff numbers*	*Staff costs (£)*
EO	2,863	96,038,345
HEO	1,502	58,733,248
SEO	896	41,798,306
Grade 7	705	47,115,864
Grade 6	221	18,845,216
Deputy Director	156	15,872,659
Director	34	4,900,166
Director General[1]	7	1,374,696

[1] Permanent Secretary also included in this figure

Motorways: Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what modelling the Government has done on the use of hard shoulder running; and if he will place a copy in the Library of the outcomes of such modelling. [313002]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has modelled the use of hard shoulder running in its National Transport Model (NTM). The outcomes of this analysis were presented in "The Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study" which, together with its technical annex, were published in March 2008.

These two documents are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/mtorsigntrafmanagement/

The key modelling impacts presented in this analysis were also published as part of "Road Transport Forecasts 2008: Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model", which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/roadtransportforcasts08/

The Department announced the inclusion of a number of new hard shoulder running schemes in its major schemes programme on 15 January 2009 in "Britain's Transport Infrastructure Motorways and Major Trunk Roads".

This report, which also contains details of the modelling outcomes, is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/motorways/

Copies of these reports have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Official Cars: Diesel Vehicles

Colin Challen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of the Government Car and Dispatch Agency's diesel-powered vehicles are fitted with diesel particulate filters. [312850]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency operates 107 diesel powered vehicles of which 62 are cars and 45 are commercial vans. Of these, 25 cars and two vans are fitted with diesel particulate filters, representing 25.23 per cent. of the combined diesel fleets.

Railways: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what he estimates the cost to the public purse will be in 2010 of removal from train operating companies of the individual ticket price flexibility hitherto available to them in producing their overall retail price index +1 increase in regulated fares. [314164]

Chris Mole: Commercial negotiations are taking place with individual train operators to agree the level of compensation, if any, due as a result of this change to their franchise agreements. Any release of information concerning the assessment of the financial impact would be prejudicial to these negotiations.

Railways: Kent

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what financial penalties apply in respect of each franchised train operating company serving Kent when scheduled trains *(a)* are cancelled and *(b)* arrive late. [313429]

Chris Mole: Financial penalties are not applied on a per-train basis under the franchise agreement with Southeastern which operates passenger rail services in Kent.

However, penalties can be applied under the franchise agreement if Southeastern exceeds a threshold for overall delay or cancellations. These penalties are outlined in the Department's enforcement policy which provides for a range of actions that may be applied in the event of a contravention of a franchise agreement. These can include requiring an operator to put in place remedial plans, making performance-based payments, and ultimately an operator's franchise can be terminated.

The enforcement policy can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/

Rapid Transit Systems: Accidents

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which body has responsibility for *(a)* investigating accidents causing (i) injuries and (ii) fatalities on guided busways and *(b)* making recommendations for action in consequence. [312631]

Mr. Khan: It is the responsibility of the operator of a guided busway to satisfy itself that safety systems are appropriate.

The police would take the lead in any investigation of an accident involving guided buses in the same way as any other road traffic incident.

The police may refer cases or liaise with the Vehicle Operator Services Agency and the Health and Safety Executive where evidence indicates that serious health and safety management failures have significantly contributed to an incident and these cannot be addressed by road traffic legislation.

Roads: Lighting

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has contributed to funding for the renewal of street lighting in each year since 1997; what guidance his Department issues on criteria for the renewal of street lighting; and if he will make a statement. [313274]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport provides capital funding to local authorities for maintenance of their highways, which they can use for the renewal of their street lighting assets. The level of local transport plan funding to local authorities in England (excluding London) for highway maintenance for each year since its introduction since 2001, and its predecessor the Transport Supplementary Grant, is given as follows.

In addition this Department has provided PFI credits for local authority street lighting projects. 24 projects are operational with a further five in procurement. The table below lists the awards to local authorities in the year they reached financial close, including awards to London authorities.

		£ million
	PFI allocation	*TSG/LTP capital*
1997-98	0	79,237
1998-99	7.5	69,447
1999-2000	0	211,864
2000-01	0	264,396
2001-02	18.6	528,004
2002-03	0	544,999
2003-04	166.747	545,640
2004-05	121	633,778
2005-06	96.765	634,409
2006-07	149.9	674,164
2007-08	94.911	677,035
2008-09	0	701,061
2009-10	332.8	735,097

Roads: Snow and Ice

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criteria were used to determine the distribution of salt during the recent severe weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [313931]

Mr. Khan: Recommendations to salt producers by the Salt Cell on prioritisation of deliveries take into account highways authorities' existing stocks; recommended reductions in gritting rates; planned deliveries from suppliers and mutual aid between authorities; and forecast weather, three to four days ahead.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many snow ploughs provided by his Department were in operation in Milton Keynes in December 2009 and January 2010. [313948]

Mr. Khan: The Highways Agency had four salt spreading vehicles equipped with plough-blades that were in operation through Milton Keynes in December 2009 and January 2010. Two of these vehicles operated on the A5 and the other two vehicles on the M1.

Winter service provision on local authority roads is a matter for Milton Keynes Council. The Department for Transport does not provide snow ploughs or other equipment.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with local authorities in England on the sharing of road salt supplies so as to ensure that the areas worst affected have access to salt. [314400]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have been regularly monitoring salt supplies and stock levels across Great Britain with the help of their agencies, local authorities and the companies which supply salt. The monitoring involved the Department and Government regional offices having regular discussions with local authorities.

The Government and the devolved Administrations with the support of the Local Government Associations for England, Wales, Transport Scotland and Transport for London decided that due to the exceptional weather they should work in partnership to advise salt suppliers on priorities for deliveries across Great Britain.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Solicitor-General how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments in each year since 2003. [306421]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1014W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the EU's military presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [314172]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina was discussed at the EU Foreign Affairs Councils in November and December 2009, and in January 2010. In January, the Council agreed conclusions deciding to start providing non-executive capacity-building and training support within the framework of the operation, noting that the executive mandate will continue in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1895 (2009), and expressing the EU's readiness to maintain an executive military role beyond 2010, should the situation require it, under a UN mandate. The Government welcome these conclusions.

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses in each of the last 10 years. [313991]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for procuring external consultants within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is devolved to individual FCO directorates, departments and overseas posts.

Annual expenditure on consultants is published each year in our annual departmental report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House and on our website. Actual consultancy expenditure in 2008-09 was £29.9 million rather then the estimated figure of £63.6 million noted in the 2008-09 departmental report. This included estimated costs of managed service delivery and other professional services, which are not classed as 'Consultancy' spend by the Office of Government Commerce.

These published figures include the costs of reimbursable expenses. To separate these out retrospectively would incur disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Oil

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the quantity of oil exported from Iraq in each of the last 10 years. [314161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), average crude oil export figures for Iraq from 1999 to 2008 are as follows:

	Average rate of export (millions of barrels per day)
1999	2.13
2000	2.04
2001	1.71
2002	1.49
2003	0.39
2004	1.45
2005	1.47
2006	1.47
2007	1.64
2008	1.86

Figures for 2009 are not currently available from the OPEC website. However, data available from the Government of Iraq's Ministry of Oil website indicate that average oil export rates in 2009 were 1.9 million barrels of oil per day, available at

http://www.oil.gov.iq/EXPORT%20CAPACITIES.php

Overseas Residence: Crime

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Spanish authorities seek payment from the Government in respect of the costs of imprisonment in Spain of British citizens awaiting trial. [314270]

Chris Bryant: No. The cost of detaining prisoners awaiting trial is the responsibility of the state in which the prisoner is detained.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Bomb Disposal

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has purchased ADE-651 bomb detectors from ATSC; [314328]

(2) whether the ADE-651 bomb detector has been used to screen vehicles at any of his Department's establishments *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [314329]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No ADE-651 bomb detectors have been purchased by the Ministry of Defence, and as such the ADE-651 has not been used where UK personnel control access to establishments either in the UK or overseas.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many families have been evicted from service family accommodation in each of the last 12 months. [314196]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service Family Accommodation (SFA) is provided to accommodate entitled Service personnel and their families. When occupants cease to be entitled to SFA and do not vacate, the Department is required to take steps to recover possession of the property. In the first instance Defence Estates (DE) will write to the occupant advising that they are required to vacate the property within 93 days. DE will be as flexible as possible and will extend this so as to accommodate children's schooling and holidays or to allow occupants the maximum possible time to secure alternative accommodation arrangements.

The number of eviction orders applied for against occupants of SFA in 2009 is shown in the following table:

Month	*Number of eviction orders*
January	5
February	16
March	6
April	1
May	4
June	8
July	2
August	6
September	14
October	4
November	3
December	19

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many houses owned by his Department were rated as grade *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4 in each of the last five years. [314197]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The majority of the 70,000 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide are leased rather than owned by the Department. SFA is graded for charge and by Standard for Condition (SfC), a detailed measure of the physical condition of a property.

For the latest number of UK properties at each SfC (as at December 2009) I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 794W to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr Fox).

The following number of UK SFA properties were at each SfC in each of the last five years:

	S1fC	*S2fC*	*S3fC*	*S4fC*
2004	25,276	22,215	3,083	146
2005	26,426	20,774	2,792	195
2006	28,796	18,950	2,309	159
2007	29,691	17,910	2,165	145
2008	28,354	17,414	2,098	109

Like for like figures are not available for overseas SFA. However, as at October 2009 overseas properties were at the following SfC:

SfC	*Number of SFA Properties*
S1fC	4,390
S2fC	3,930
S3fC	4,152
S4fC	2,848
Not yet assessed	99

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 203W, on armed forces: housing, how many requests for repair call outs were made in respect of family housing. [314204]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. Member.

AWE Aldermaston

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he has had with representatives of the Atomic Weapons Establishment on the development of new facilities at Aldermaston in the last 12 months. [313383]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Secretary of State for Defence visited the Atomic Weapons Establishment on 23 September 2009. I visited on 27 February and 9 November 2009. As part of these visits briefing was provided on a range of subjects, including developments on the ongoing capital facilities programme. Ministry of Defence officials maintain a constant dialogue with AWE plc and other stakeholders on these matters, providing advice to Ministers as appropriate.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on Atomic Weapons Establishment facilities at Aldermaston in each of the last five years. [313384]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The capital facilities expenditure figures for the two Atomic Weapons Establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield are shown in the following table:

	Capital costs at outturn prices (£ million)
2005-06	172
2006-07	312
2007-08	409
2008-09	395
2009-10[1]	420

[1] Provisional.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313222]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence and its agencies make suitable information available for free re-use under the Public Sector Information Click-Use Licence. The Department's Trading Funds are able, under their trading fund status, to charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs, with both the Meteorological Office and UK Hydrographic Office licensing information for commercial re-use. Also, the museums for the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force are registered charities classified as executive non-departmental public bodies and levy a charge for requests of photographic images, video material and copies of historical documents to commercial companies and individuals at commercial rates. Charitable or other not-for-profit organisations are either not charged or charged at cost.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has allocated for the *(a)* procurement, *(b)* maintenance, *(c)* compliance testing and *(d)* security of information technology systems in 2010-11. [313553]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Available resources for Defence expenditure are set during spending rounds. The most recent comprehensive spending review set the Department's budget for the financial years 2008-11.

Departmental expenditure plans for 2010-11 and beyond have not yet been agreed.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on information technology in the last three financial years; how much of this was spent on *(a)* software development and testing and *(b)* application including (i) staff training, (ii) the cost of new hardware and software and (iii) the cost of launching into the live environment. [313554]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department spent the following on information technology and telecommunications in the last three financial years:

	£ million
2006-07	1,350
2007-08	1,509
2008-09	1,727

Notes:
1. The MOD's Resource Account Codes do not split the costs between information technology and telecommunications.
2. These costs include telecommunication costs, for example line rental.
3. These figures relate to capital addition and operating cost charges.

The detailed breakdown requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Further information can be found in the Department's Annual Report at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to spend on research and development, excluding expenditure from the science, innovation and technology budgets, in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [314194]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Research and development spending in the MOD is spread across a number of key areas within the department. As such, no centralised R and D budget exists. In financial year 2007-08, the total MOD R and D spend, excluding science innovation technology, was some £1.6 billion. We anticipate that this will remain at a comparable level over the next few years, although departmental expenditure limits have not yet been set for the years beyond 2010-11.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on research and development, excluding expenditure from the science, innovation and technology budget, in the financial year 2008-09. [314195]

Mr. Quentin Davies: R and D figures for 2008-09 are part of a National Statistic and the release of these figures is embargoed until their publication in late March. The most recent figures that are available 2007-08, indicate some £1.6 billion was spent by MOD on R and D, excluding the science innovation technology spend.

Figures for 2007-08 and earlier are available in the annual MOD Defence Statistics publication, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department in providing logistical support to the emergency services in Haiti following the recent earthquake. [314039]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Spending by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in support of Operation Panlake, the assistance provided by MOD to Haiti on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID), will be recovered from DFID. At present, it is not possible to say how much MOD has/will spend in support of Operation Panlake. The work is still being scoped and costings are incomplete.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a final decision has been made on the procurement of the Boeing RC-135 to replace the Nimrod R.1. [314373]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A decision is expected shortly regarding the replacement of the Nimrod R1.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with BAE Systems on the procurement of a successor to the Nimrod R1; and when he last met representatives of BAE Systems to discuss such procurement. [314374]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I met with local MPs, BAE Systems Union representatives and BAE System officials on 15 December 2009 to discuss the replacement of the Nimrod R1 and to listen to their concerns regarding the closure of BAE Systems Woodford.

Navy: Deployment

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ships of the Royal Navy are deployed on operations at sea; and where each is deployed. [314054]

Bill Rammell: As at 28 January 2010 the following Royal Navy ships are deployed on operations:

Middle East

HMS Monmouth
HMS Atherstone
HMS Chiddingfold
HMS Grimsby
HMS Pembroke
HMS Lancaster
RFA Cardigan Bay
RFA Lyme Bay
RFA Bayleaf

Horn of Africa

HMS Chatham

Mediterranean

HMS Sabre
HMS Scimitar
HMS Enterprise

South Atlantic

HMS York
HMS Clyde
RFA Gold Rover
HMS Scott

Home Waters

HMS Mersey
HMS Severn
HMS Tyne
HMS Gleaner

Royal Navy ships deployed on Exercises:

Norway

HMS Bulwark
RFA Mounts Bay

Mediterranean

HMS Manchester

In addition two Frigates, two Mine Counter Measures Vessels and one RFA ship are at notice for contingent operations in home waters and RFA Largs Bay is preparing to sail on Op Panlake off Haiti.

Radioactive Materials: Imports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 17-18W, on radioactive materials: imports, what the provisions are of the strict materials accountancy regime to which reference was made in the answer; which organisation carries out the accountancy checks; and to whom that organisation reports. [313541]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) materials accountancy regime reflects requirements in the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999, including its associated Code of Practice, and International Atomic Energy Agency standards. These require the maintenance of accounts for radioactive material holdings and for annual inventory verification.

Within the MOD, the application of the materials accountancy regime is the responsibility of the Strategic Weapons Project Team (SWPT), part of the Defence Equipment and Support area. Individual site operators are responsible for accurate accountancy and reporting of accountable material by quantity and location; their arrangements are required to include a robust internal audit process and physical checks of holdings.

The responsibility for ensuring the conduct of audits of site operator arrangements, in respect of MOD-owned accountable material, lies with the head of SWPT, who is accountable to me in this capacity. Such an audit would include further physical inventory checking to verify the operator's on-site inventory.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question *(a)* 310011, *(b)* 310012 and *(c)* 310013 on Milngavie reservoir, tabled on 6 January 2010. [314200]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I replied to the hon. Member on 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 797W.

JUSTICE

Crime

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of *(a)* domestic burglary and *(b)* drug offences in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 2006. [313487]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts in the north-east Government office region (GOR) and England and Wales for domestic burglary and drugs offences in 2006 and 2007 (latest available) can be found in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are given in the table for the north-east GOR in which the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside are located.

Data for 2008 were published on 28 January 2010 but were not available at time of preparing the response. The hon. Member may wish to request 2008 data in a further question.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts in the north-east Government office region (GOR) and England and Wales, for domestic burglary and drugs offences, 2006 and 2007[1,2]

	North East GOR		*England and Wales*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Burglary in a dwelling	767	827	12,442	13,138
Misuse of drugs	2,734	2,667	39,580	44,564

[1] Includes: Cleveland police force area; Durham police force area; Northumbria police force area.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313671]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice answered 2,923 ordinary written questions and 790 named day questions from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009. On average it has taken 6.14 sitting days to answer ordinary written questions and 2.22 sitting days to answer named day questions in Parliament.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much he expects to be raised from the victims surcharge in each of the next five years. [313523]

Mr. Straw: The victims surcharge is a £15 charge imposed on fines given in the magistrates and Crown courts in England and Wales on all offences committed on or after 1 April 2007.

As receipts are dependent on the number of fines imposed and the enforcement rates achieved it is difficult to forecast future revenue from the surcharge with exactness. It is estimated that, as currently implemented, around £8 million will be raised from the surcharge, on fines, in 2009-10 and each year thereafter.

Offenders: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals were charged with a criminal offence in each year since 2005. [313502]

Claire Ward: Statistical information recorded centrally on the Court Proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice does not include a defendant's nationality. This information would be recorded should the defendant be sentenced to custody.

Prisons: Employment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours on average were worked by prisoners in prisons in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much remuneration on average prisoners received per week for such work in that period. [313863]

Maria Eagle: During the period April to December 2009 prisoners in England and Wales spent on average 11.82 hours a week in employment activities. Figures for the average remuneration received by prisoners over the same period are not available. However, a snapshot survey carried out in April/May 2007 showed an average rate of £9.60 a week.

Prosecutions: Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for non-payment of council tax in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [314382]

Claire Ward: Proceedings at magistrates courts for offences of non-payment of council tax cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice Court proceedings database as they form part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be separately analysed.

Snow and Ice

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [313591]

Mr. Wills: No overall assessment has been made of the financial impact of the severe weather conditions in the period 4 January to 18 January 2010 on the Ministry of Justice and its executive agencies (the National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian).

Regular communications were issued to staff across the organisation via intranet and email ahead of, and during, the period of severe weather advising on the actions to be taken. Advice was as follows:

> Managers were instructed to have their business continuity plans and key contacts readily available for activation.
>
> Staff were advised not to take undue risks to travel to work if it was not safe.
>
> Staff who were unable to attend their normal place of work must inform their manager that they are delayed or will not attend for duty. Where possible in these circumstances, staff were expected to work from home or, subject to management authorisation and organisation, attend another Ministry of Justice office or location.

Following the adoption of these principles, the impact on departmental business is considered to be relatively low. There were a number of closures of courts and tribunals at various stages and some courts, offices and prisons had to cope with fewer staff for short periods. In general, business continuity plans were activated without incurring additional expenditure, with work being prioritised and postponed. It would incur disproportionate cost to contact every local office, prison, court, probation board or trust and tribunal to obtain a financial impact assessment and to analyse and collate this information.

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on Streatham constituency of changes to his Department's policies since 1997. [313393]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Streatham, it is available for London. These shows an increase in the total number of offenders sentenced annually from 202,478 in 1997 to 226,891 in 2007, the latest period for which such information is available.

Likewise, the number of offences brought to justice for the London area increased from 122,500 in 2001-02 (the earliest period since which such data have has been compiled) to 230,000 in 2007-08.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Streatham. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts by the Metropolitan police increased from 260,328 in 1997 to 265,709 in 2007.

Although data on reoffending are not available for the constituency of Streatham, it is available for the borough of Lambeth The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, showed that the three month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Lambeth was 8.05 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was a reduction in reoffending of 6.88 per cent compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing supervision by the Probation Service in London was 16,019 in 1997 and 22,233 in 2008.

158,440 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of London Civil and Family HM Courts Service (HMCS) area in 2008, compared to 263,305 in 1998, the first year for which these figures are available. In respect of family law, there were also 15,512 private law applications and 870 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 11,684 and 1,095 respectively in 2003-04, the first annual period for which these figures are available.

In addition, at a national level:

local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer Question 300893, on departmental pay, tabled on 18 November 2009. [313137]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the hon. Member on 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 692-94W. I apologise for the delay.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he next plans to raise in the Council of Ministers the subject of long distance transportation of horses to slaughter; [314055]

(2) if he will seek to secure agreement at EU level on a journey limit of between nine and 12 hours for the long distance transportation of horses to slaughter. [314056]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The review of Council Regulation 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transport, which was brought forward from the deadline of 2011, was postponed by the European Commission in October last year because of a lack of internal agreement on the draft proposals. We expect to see fresh proposals within the next year. The Secretary of State's call for improved enforcement and finite times for journeys to slaughter made at Agriculture Council in September last year still stands.

Photography: Environment Agency

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on the photography industry of non-remunerated photography contracts issued by the Environment Agency; and if he will make a statement. [314169]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency has not issued any non-remunerated photography contracts and currently has four contracts in place with professional photographers. Each of these suppliers has gone through the tender process which is evaluated on both cost and quality.

Any photographer employed by the Environment Agency will be paid in full for their work. The Environment Agency has strict criteria on working with suppliers and takes its responsibilities seriously when it comes to paying people the right rate, on time, and getting good value for the taxpayer.

Rodents: Sewers

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 156W, on rodents, whether his Department has reviewed the revised sewer protocols between Thames Water and Yorkshire Water and their relevant local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [314243]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No. I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 2 Dec 2009, *Official Report*, column 732W.

Sewers: Private Sector

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of progress in the transfer of private drains to water companies in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [314262]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 15 December 2008, the Government announced that the transfer of all private sewers and lateral drains linked to the public sewerage system to water company ownership would take place from 2011. Transfer is the only comprehensive solution to the range of problems presented by private sewers.

I anticipate consulting early this year on the content of regulations to effect transfer, prior to them being presented to Parliament for approval.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister what average time he took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313674]

The Prime Minister: My office aims to answer all ordinary written parliamentary questions within five working days, and named day written parliamentary questions on the day named.

This information is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

President of the European Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what matters were *(a)* discussed and *(b)* agreed upon in his meeting on 19 January with the President of the Council of the European Union. [313544]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my office on 19 January 2010. A copy is available on the Number 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22179

Tuesday 19 January 2010

President of the European Council and PM discuss strategy for growth

The Prime Minister has said that members of the EU must raise the level of ambition for Europe's future growth and employment.

The UK Government has published a compact designed to "reinvigorate" EU economies and build "strong, sustainable and balanced" growth.

Gordon Brown welcomed the new President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy, to Downing Street this morning to discuss the priorities for Europe including action on the economy, climate change and security.

They also discussed the situation in Haiti following last week's devastating earthquake. Mr van Rompuy said the EU has responded swiftly to the situation, with EU members already pledging €400 million, including €30 million from the UK. The EU is committed to helping Haiti with longer term reconstruction, Mr van Rompuy said.

On the economy, Mr Brown said EU countries must agree co-ordinated measures that will build a strong recovery.

President van Rompuy and I are agreed that at this critical point in Europe's history, we must now more than ever, raise our level of ambition for Europe's future growth and employment.

The European Union, despite the challenge of Asia and the rest of the world, remains the world's largest trading block.

We are the biggest export market in the world, we are the largest internal market in the world and we have to forge a new economic strategy for our future following the economic crisis.

Gordon Brown said measures to improve growth and job prospects include investment in the low-carbon economy, open markets, the completion of the single market, and more flexible labour markets.

Mr van Rompuy said he has called an informal meeting of the European Council in February to look at formulating a new economic strategy for the region.

WMD Intelligence Review Committee

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister which recommendations made by the report of the committee investigating the use of intelligence on Iraq chaired by Lord Butler accepted by the Government have been implemented; and when each other recommendation accepted by the Government will be implemented. [312691]

The Prime Minister: The Government accepted and implemented all of Lord Butler's recommendations, following his review in 2004. We continue to look to improve the quality of analysis of intelligence across Government.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects his Department to publish figures on occurrences of anti-Semitic incidents. [306341]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office intends to publish figures on occurrences of anti-Semitic incidents in April 2010.

Assaults on Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been assaulted in each of the last 10 years. [306394]

Alan Johnson: Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers in 2004-05 and years previous to this can be found in the HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary Annual Reports, available in the Library of the House. A weblink to the 2004-05 report is provided for the member's convenience:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0842/0842.pdf

Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers for 2005-06 onwards can be found in the supplementary tables of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", available in the Library of the House. A weblink for the 2008-09 data is again provided for the member's convenience:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1309supp.pdf

Earlier data from HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary reports and later data from Home Office supplementary tables are not comparable with each other as HMIC data were taken from Crime Recording Systems and Home Office data were taken from self-reported HR systems.

In the 10-year period, the number of police officers has increased by 14 per cent. (from 123,841 in 1998-99 to 141,647 in 2008-09). The number of assaults relates to only a very small proportion of these police officers—in 2008-09 there were an average of 0.07 assaults per officer.

Asylum: Costs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated amount was of *(a)* support costs, *(b)* administration costs, *(c)* housing costs, *(d)* legal costs, *(e)* deportation costs and *(f)* other costs of the asylum system in each year since 1997. [305999]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* It is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the full costs of the specific breakdown of costs for each of the years requested except at disproportionate cost as the information was not recorded in the required format.

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* original planned and *(b)* current estimated budget is of the e-Borders Programme; and if he will make a statement. [306315]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The original planned expenditure for e-Borders from award of the contract to Trusted Borders in November 2007 through to November 2017 was £1.2 billion.

The current forecast of expenditure for this period, including contingency, is £1.2 billion.

Crime: Computers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps an individual who has been subject to *(a)* a phishing attack, *(b)* installation of malware or adware and *(c)* other interference with their computer activities should take to report the incident for criminal investigation; how many such incidents were reported in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [306544]

Alan Johnson: Any individual who believes that they have been the subject of such attacks or interference on their computer should report the matter to the police, who can then investigate the complaint.

The offences mentioned would in most cases appear to be covered by the Computer Misuse Act 1990. However, the Home Office does not collect statistics centrally on reports of these offences, and therefore I am unable to provide the hon. Member with the figures requested.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in 2010. [313043]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* The Secretary of State welcomes the 10:10 campaign and has signed up in a personal capacity. Staff have also been encouraged to take part. The Department and its agencies plan to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in 2010-11 against a 2009-10 baseline.

The Department and its agencies have had targets to reduce emissions since 1999 stretching to 2020 and carbon budgets which set out the Department's carbon emission reduction requirements to 2050. Performance against carbon emissions is published annually, the most recent data for the Home Office showed a 23.8 per cent. reduction against baseline.

Driving Offences: Fines

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue was raised through fines consequent on *(a)* parking, *(b)* speeding and *(c)* other driving offences in each year since 2005. [313427]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information reported to the Home Office on fixed penalty notices for motoring offences as well as data on court fines held by the Ministry of Justice does not include information on revenues as not all fines imposed will have been paid.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 15 July, 17 September and 14 October 2009 on his constituent Mr. Neil McAlpine and the visa for Analia Hasson. [304739]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 20 January 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton on Miss Prisla Joy Kalva. [305113]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 December 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mr Ali Hosseni. [309159]

Alan Johnson: A full substantive response was sent to the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton on 16 December in reply to his letter of 10 November 2009 about Mr Ali Hosseni.

Offenders: Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners have been removed from the UK since 1 January 2009. [306681]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* We have published provisional management information which shows that we deported or removed a total of 3,890 foreign national prisoners between 1 January and 30 September 2009. This figure is taken from the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly statistical Summary for Q3 2009", which can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Passports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consideration he has given to allowing British citizens resident in *(a)* the European Union and *(b)* Switzerland to submit passport renewal applications to be processed by post. [313533]

Alan Johnson: The Identity and Passport Service does not accept postal applications made from overseas, including those made from other European Union countries and Switzerland, and no consideration has been given to accepting applications by post from overseas.

If British citizens resident in any of these countries want to renew their passport, they would need to contact their local British embassy or consulate. Alternatively, they could return to the United Kingdom and apply in person to the Identity and Passport Service.

Terrorism

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been questioned and been *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* subsequently prosecuted in relation to terrorism offences in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK in each of the last five years. [314349][1]

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[1] *[Official Report, 23 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 5MC.]*

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold statistics on the number of individuals questioned in relation to terrorism offences. In the last five years the police have issued the following number of cautions for terrorism offences:

	Number of cautions issued
2004-05	4
2005-06	1
2006-07	0
2007-08	2
2008-09	4

The Home Office collates statistics on the number of terrorism arrests, charges and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin which was published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The data contained in the Bulletin relates to Great Britain and not specific areas. The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The number of cautions as detailed above are contained in the second issue of the Bulletin which was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested under anti-terrorism legislation have subsequently been extradited in each of the five years. [314350]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way. However, the Home Office does collate statistics on the number of terrorism arrests and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the link below:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of offences under anti-terrorism legislation have been released on *(a)* automatic unconditional release, *(b)* automatic conditional release and *(c)* discretionary conditional release in each of the last 12 months. [314352]

Mr. Hanson: For prisoners to be released unconditionally, they must have served a sentence of less than 12 months. For prisoners to be automatically released with conditions, they must have served a sentence of 12 months or more.

To be released on a discretionary conditional basis, prisoners will have served a sentence of four years or more for offences committed prior to 4 April 2005 or be subject to an extended sentence under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposed prior to 14 July 2008. Discretionary release is on the recommendation of the Parole Board.

Data on releases of prisoners having served sentences under anti-terrorism legislation or terrorism related offences for 2007-08 and 2008-09 were published in the Home Office statistical bulletins on terrorism arrests and outcomes. This data, however, do not show a monthly figure for releases. Both bulletins may be found at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/terrorism.html

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of offences under anti-terrorism legislation are serving custodial sentences. [314353]

Mr. Hanson: At 31 March 2009, there were 143 terrorist/extremist prisoners in Great Britain. The Home Office collates statistics on the number of terrorism arrests and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin which was published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The figure quoted above is contained in the second issue of the Bulletin which was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the link below:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Visas and Exclusion Orders: Ireland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK's list of persons who *(a)* have been refused a visa for admission into the UK and *(b)* are to be denied travel to the UK is automatically shared with the border agency authorities of the Irish Republic as part of the Common Travel Area regime; and if he will make a statement. [309981]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The UK Border Agency holds a watchlist of adverse information drawn from a variety of sources, including the police, SOCA and other Government Departments. The system is used by UK Border Agency staff for the purposes of national security and the detection and prevention of crime. Refusal of entry may be based on information from any of these sources.

The UK and Ireland undertake a range of data sharing activity to underpin the security of the Common Travel Area, backed up by extensive operational co-operation. This includes sharing data from the UK immigration watchlist. We have a longstanding policy not to disclose exactly what information is shared.

Data sharing with the Irish Government remains a key area for increased co-operation, as recognised in the "Strengthening The Common Travel Area" public consultation and subsequent response.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the monetary value of bond issues across all sectors requiring refinancing in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [313282]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

No such estimate is available. The Government continue to take targeted measures ensure that the supply of credit meets recovering demand from creditworthy businesses.

Business: Staffordshire

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital has been supplied to small businesses in Staffordshire through the Government's Enterprise Investment Scheme. [313440]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The relevant data are not available at the level of individual counties. However, consistent with the latest HMRC National Statistics published for investment raised through the Enterprise Investment Scheme in the Government office regions, the total amount raised and invested in small businesses in the West Midlands through the Enterprise Investment Scheme since it was introduced in 1994 is around £300 million.

Students: Grants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the average delay in processing of student grant applications for academic year 2009-10; how many students have yet to receive their grant; how many students have withdrawn from their course as a result of not receiving their grant; and if he will make a statement. [313102]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 25 January 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement to the House on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 12WS. The report and statement can be found at the following URL:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/hopkin

I am advised that the Student Loans Company holds data only on average processing times for applications where the applicant has supplied all supporting information and evidence. For the application cycle academic year 2009/10 to date, average processing times for fully documented means-tested applications have been within SLC's published service standards of 30 days for paper applications and 20 days for online applications.

Data on numbers of applications processed, paid and still to be paid are available on the SLC website at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/facts%20and%20%20figures/index.html

The Department has not made an estimate of numbers of students who have withdrawn from a course in 2009/10 academic year due to delays in receiving student finance.

Many students whose means tested applications could not be processed before the start of term, for example because of incomplete evidence, were given provisional non means-tested maintenance awards and confirmation that their tuition fees would be paid.

Students whose application for student support was not approved by the start of term would have been able to apply for help through the Access to Learning Fund, which is provided by the Government and administered by higher education institutions, and can provide assistance to students in financial hardship.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Publications

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's list of *(a)* deployable civilian experts and *(b)* members of the Civil Service Stabilisation Cadre deployed in each country of the world. [314364]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The 1,000-strong UK Civilian Stabilisation Group includes a number of different skills and experience to help rebuild countries. The specific experts and civil servants in the Group are deployed in accordance with the particular requirements of a country's need.

There are currently 23 Deployable Civilian Experts in Afghanistan, two in the Democratic Republic of Congo and one in Kenya. There are two members of the Civil Service Stabilisation Cadre currently deployed in Afghanistan. At least two more members will be deployed to Afghanistan in the coming weeks, while others have recently returned.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act, it would not be appropriate to publish a list of individuals' names.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the job description of each of his Department's officials involved in managing the Stabilisation Unit's database of deployable civilian experts and the Civil Service Stabilisation Cadre. [314365]

Mr. Michael Foster: The requested information will be placed in the House Library.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 414W, on people trafficking, to what overseas projects and non-governmental organisations tackling human trafficking, forced labour and child labour his department provides support. [314203]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing the following support to overseas projects and non-governmental organisations tackling human trafficking, forced labour and child labour:

$5.8 million to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) project on Building a Global Alliance against Forced Labour and Human Trafficking. DFID support has enabled ILO to produce authoritative data on forced and migrant labour, provide training and guidance to labour administration officials and other law enforcement officers, and run projects tackling forced labour and trafficking in many of countries.

£1.4 million to Anti-Slavery International's Slavery and Child Labour: Governance and Social Responsibility project, which seeks to combat the worst forms of child labour in six countries.

£388,000 to the Salvation Army's Malawi Anti-Child Trafficking Project which aims to improve knowledge of and access to rights for children in Malawi who have been trafficked or are vulnerable to being trafficked.

£1.6 million to the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) to improve the incomes, working conditions and respect for the rights of millions of poor workers who are employed by suppliers of ETI member companies. All member companies agree to adopt the 'Base Code of Labour Practice' which prohibits forced labour and child labour.

In Bangladesh DFID has also supported the establishment of a specialised police unit for combating human trafficking.

Stabilisation Unit

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department's Stabilisation Unit are employed to manage that Unit's database of *(a)* deployable civilian experts and *(b)* the Civil Service Stabilisation Cadre. [314366]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Three Stabilisation Unit staff are currently employed to manage the Civilian Stabilisation Group, which consists of over 800 Deployable Civilian Experts and over 200 members of the Civil Service Stabilisation Cadre. A small number of additional staff are responsible for administrative tasks associated with the recruitment, training and deployment of members of the Group.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Internet

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that the Comprehensive Area Assessment Oneplace website includes data on the frequency of collection of household waste by local authorities. [313811]

Barbara Follett: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The Oneplace website currently includes performance indicators on the amount of waste collected, recycled and landfilled as well as a range of measures of residents' satisfaction with these services.

The Audit Commission is discussing with DEFRA the availability of reliable data on the frequency of household waste and recycling collection with a view to including this data on the website as soon as possible.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [314229]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not available. The Department evaluates the impact of major programmes and policies. We do not assess the specific impacts on individual areas.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes details of evaluations.

Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority has received in fines relating to late payment of council tax in each of the last 10 years. [314380]

Barbara Follett: This information is not collected centrally.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible sell information on a commercial basis to (i) companies or individuals in the private sector and (ii) other organisations. [313220]

Barbara Follett: Government Departments and agencies make most of their information available for free re-use under the Public Sector Information (PSI) Click-Use Licence. CLG's executive NDPBs make relevant information freely available by publishing it on their websites. CLG's trading funds; the Ordnance Survey, the Fire Service College and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre can charge for the services they provide in order to cover their costs. This includes information supplied to other public bodies, commercial organisations and individuals. In common with other Government policy, some information is sold as priced publications.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many layers of management reporting from the most senior to the most junior there are in his Department and each of its agencies; how many officials are employed in each such layer; and how much was spent on salaries and associated employment costs of staff at each such layer in the latest year for which information is available. [312825]

Barbara Follett: In the Department for Communities and Local Government uniform layers of management do not exist across the organisation. Instead, different arrangements are made by each area to meet its business needs. At present employees in pay range 3 and above can be responsible for line management.

The following table shows total employment costs for pay ranges 3 and above for 2008-09 although it should be noted that not all these employees will have line management responsibilities. Total employment costs include salaries, non-consolidated performance awards, employer's national insurance payments, overtime and employer's pension costs. The provision of total pay costs excluding non-line managers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pay range	*Number of staff (headcount)*	*Total annual employment costs 2008-09 (£)*
3 (EO)	333	10,596,359
4 (HEO)	533	19,559,166
5 (SEO)	326	12,010,745
6 (Grade 7)	497	24,829,182
7 (Grade 6)	127	7,709,854
Deputy Director	84	8,355,458
Director	22	3,173,623
Director General	6	1,383,829
Permanent Secretary	1	266,471

Departmental NDPBs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [314250]

Barbara Follett: 22 in total as at January 2010. The Department sponsors 12 executive NDPBs, five advisory NDPBs and two tribunal NDPBs, as well as two other public bodies classified as Public Corporations and a public body which does not have a formal classification. The bodies are listed as follows.

Executive NDPBs

Community Development Foundation
Firebuy
Homes and Communities Agency
Independent Housing Ombudsman Limited
Infrastructure Planning Commission
Leasehold Advisory Service
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Standards for England
Tenant Services Authority
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Valuation Tribunal Service
West Northants Development Corporation

Advisory NDPBs

Advisory Panel for the Local Innovation Awards
Advisory Panel on Standards for the Planning Inspectorate
Building Regulations Advisory Committee
National Community Forum
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Tribunal NDPBs

Rent Assessment Panels under the Residential Property Tribunal Service
Valuation Tribunal for England

Public Corporations

Architects Registration Board
Audit Commission

Other

Local Government Ombudsman/Commission for Local Administration

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 769-70W, on Departmental written questions, what mechanisms are in place for monitoring his Department's performance in answering parliamentary questions for written answer; and what targets he has set for the time taken to answer such questions. [314469]

Barbara Follett: The Department's performance in answering parliamentary questions is monitored by its Management Board.

In CLG, Ministers endeavour to provide hon. Members with a substantive response to their named day question on the date specified, and to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. In 2009, CLG Ministers received:

862 questions for answer on a named day of which 708 (82 per cent.) received a substantive answer on the due date; and

4,853 ordinary written questions of which 4,112 (85 per cent.) were answered within a working week.

Doncaster Council

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the Audit Commission to publish the findings of its corporate governance inspection of Doncaster Council. [314325]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct. As the Audit Commission has already made clear, the inspection will take place as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made and we are keen to see the findings as soon as possible. However, it is important that the inspection is robust as the findings will inform any further package of support offered to the council. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has confirmed that we are prepared to use the powers he has to tackle any issues identified by the Audit Commission which require government action.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 29 January 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The planning for the inspection of Doncaster Council is well advanced and the necessary fieldwork will be completed as soon as possible. The inspection report (including recommendations) will be published as soon as it is complete but at this stage it is not possible to give a firm date.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation document, "Lender repossession of residential property: protection of tenants", when he expects to announce each of the preferred options. [313809]

Mr. Ian Austin: CLG's consultation on "Lender repossession of residential property: protection of tenants", which considered options for closing a gap in legal protection for tenants who suffer short notice eviction as a result of landlord eviction, closed on 14 October 2009. The consultation document stated that the Government's preferred approach was to ensure tenants received adequate notice if they needed to move by giving courts the power to delay possession and introducing a new notice of intention to enforce possession. These measures are now being taken forward by Dr. Brian Iddon in a private Members Bill, The Mortgage Repossessions (Protection of Tenants etc) Bill, which is to receive its second reading on 29 January.

Non-domestic Rates

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments in England he expects to claim small business rate relief in 2009-10. [314207]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 5 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 230W.

Non-domestic Rates: Fines

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority has collected in fines relating to late payment of business rates in each of the last 10 years. [314381]

Barbara Follett: There are no fines for late payment within the business rates system.

Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many supermarket petrol retail outlets have been notified that their rateable value *(a)* has been reduced, *(b)* remains unchanged and *(c)* has risen by over (i) 10 per cent., (ii) 50 per cent., (iii) 100 per cent. (iv) 150 per cent., (v) 200 per cent., (vi) 250 per cent., (vii) 300 per cent. and (viii) 350 per cent. for the purpose of calculating the business rate to come into effect on 1 April 2010. [311057]

Barbara Follett: All supermarkets have been sent summary valuation calculations notifying the occupiers of their new rateable value (RV), and have been invited to contact their local valuation officer if they think the change in their RV may be incorrect.

The RV for a supermarket petrol retail outlet forms part of the overall rateable value of the supermarket. The SCAT codes do not allow us to separately identify supermarkets with petrol retails outlets from supermarkets without petrol retail outlets. Therefore, information on the distribution of supermarket petrol retail outlets by change in RV is not held centrally.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government and over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

As a result of the £2 billion transitional relief scheme we have put in place, no property (including petrol retail outlets) will see its rates rise by more than 11 per cent. in 2010-11 as a result of revaluation, with increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties.

Shops: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. member for Meriden of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1073-4W, on shops: empty property, what information his Department used to assess *(a)* levels of deprivation and *(b)* shop vacancy rates. [313808]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government is providing £5.6 million to 107 local authorities to support approaches for making use of vacant shops and other ideas for boosting high streets and town centres affected by the recession. We have targeted this funding at councils showing relatively high levels of deprivation as these areas have been hit hardest by the recession.

The local authorities receiving funding are in the top half of the index of multiple deprivation (IMD) and show relatively high shop vacancy rates based on data provided by the market analysts Experian.

Southend Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons he issued an Article 14 direction with regard to the proposed runway extension at London Southend Airport. [312996]

Barbara Follett: The Article 14 Direction was issued to enable the Secretary of State to consider whether to call-in the application for his own determination.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1512W, on travelling people: caravan sites, what figures *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate holds on the number and proportion of planning appeals that were (i) granted and (ii) dismissed, (A) prior to the year that Circular 01/06 came into force and (B) subsequent to the year that Circular 01/06 came into force. [308797]

Mr. Ian Austin: It is not possible to search the Planning Inspectorate's database for appeals that solely concern travelling people or caravan sites.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what targets *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Communication Group have for the time to (i) acknowledge and (ii) provide a substantive reply to external correspondence. [312290]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office target for responding to correspondence with a substantive reply is 15 working days.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) her Department and (ii) its agency in each of the last five years; what estimate she has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year. [313249]

Angela E. Smith: On 31 December 2009, Cabinet Office had 17 staff without permanent roles who were being supported to find new permanent roles. The Department introduced a brokerage service in July 2007 to provide tailored support to redeploy staff without permanent roles. Figures on staff without permanent roles are only available since that date.

Since July 2007, 115 staff without permanent roles have been redeployed. The average time between staff being declared surplus and redeployment to a new permanent role is set out in the following table. The table also gives details of the proportion of employees without a permanent role for longer than six months.

	Average time from declared surplus to redeployment (Months)	*Proportion of CO employees without a permanent role for six months or more (Percentage)*
2007[1]	9	0.65
2008[1]	4	1.38
2009[1]	2	1.21

[1] Information on salary costs of staff without permanent roles is not held. However, there are no additional staff costs to the Department arising from staff without permanent roles, since they are deployed in interim or temporary roles while they are looking for permanent employment, saving the Department the cost of fees on agency and interim staff.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other contacts (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in her Department have had with (A) Niall Fitzgerald, (B) Keith Craig, (C) Sir Rod Eddington, (D) Sir Kieran Prendergast, (E) Robert Webb QC and (F) Mark Getty since 1 January 2009. [313775]

Angela E. Smith: Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals. To provide the information requested could be met only at disproportionate cost.

Government Communications: Political Parties

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Permanent Secretary for Government Communications has issued advice to political parties on the use of the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future brands. [312521]

Tessa Jowell: The Permanent Secretary for Government Communications has not issued advice to political parties on these subjects.

Hakluyt

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1228W, on Hakluyt, what contacts Ministers in her Department have had with Hakluyt and Co. since 1 January 2009. [312789]

Angela E. Smith: No Ministers in my Department have met with Hakluyt and Co. since 1 January 20009.

Power of Information Taskforce

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which recommendations in the Power of Information Taskforce Report have been *(a)* rejected, *(b)* fully implemented and *(c)* partly implemented. [309847]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Response to the Power of Information Taskforce report accepted, at least in principle, all of the recommendations. Action on Recommendations 4, 9, 13, 16, 18, 19, 17, 20 and 22 is complete. Other recommendations are in the process of being implemented.

Third Sector: Cheques

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the likely effect on third sector organisations of proposals to phase out the cheque clearing system. [313359]

Angela E. Smith: I am very concerned about the withdrawal of cheques, planned for October 2018, and the potential impact on the sector. We are in discussion with the Payments Council, which is planning to meet with charities to consult over their plans.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have received from the Icelandic government since 5 January 2010 regarding the renegotiation of terms to repay debt to the Government for the compensation of depositors who held accounts with Icesave. [313620]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department since 1997. [314239]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all areas of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work. In Chorley people are benefiting from this investment. Over the second half of 2009, more than 500 people moved off of the claimant count each month on average. The claimant count fell over the last three quarters and now stands 14 per cent. below its April level. At the end of 2009, long-term youth unemployment and long-term unemployment are both nearly 90 per cent. lower than in May 1997.

Civil Service: Location

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the suitability of the West Midlands as an area to which civil service posts could be relocated. [307311]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* The Lyons review of 2004 suggested that a Government relocation programme could generate savings over a 15 year period and demonstrated the positive impact that well planned relocations can have on local economies.

Pre-Budget report 2009 announced that nearly 21,000 posts had been moved out of London and the South East by June 2009. Of these, 2,069 have been relocated to the West Midlands.

"Smarter Government", published in December 2009, went further and announced that Ian Smith would lead a review to look at the efficiencies that moving further posts might bring, outlining how at least 10 per cent. of all civil service posts currently based in London and the South East can be relocated in the medium term.

The terms of reference I have agreed for this review are to produce recommendations on:

Generating savings through relocating further civil service posts out of London and the South East, where there is no operational reason for being there, together with specific proposals to ensure relocation directly contributes to regional and local economic regeneration;

Delivering a step change in the transparency of Government relocations, involving both the development of a transparent long-term pipeline, and launch of a new forum to regularly bring together local areas and OGC to structure relocation propositions that deliver better value for money;

The mechanisms that could be developed to relocate at least 10 per cent. of current posts in the medium term, building on the current Relocation Programme which was created following Sir Michael Lyons' report in 2004;

What Departments need to do to be able to make the most of opportunities to rationalise their London and South East estate;

How Government can manage its estate more effectively to reduce barriers to relocating staff, while ensuring that up-front costs are minimised; and

What mechanisms and incentives can be introduced to ensure that any relocation programme is self-sustaining and on-going.

The review should also aim to deliver a specific, significant relocation example in time for Budget, demonstrating the seriousness of the Government's intent.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313651]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the calendar year 2009, Treasury Ministers answered ordinary written questions substantively in an average of seven working days. 2,163 of the 2,804 questions concerned (77.1 per cent.) were answered within a week of tabling. Treasury Ministers answered named day questions in an average of five working days. 685 of the 884 questions concerned (77.4 per cent.) were answered on the nominated day.

With effect from the current Session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the third report from the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09.

Economic Situation: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the recession on the economy in Portsmouth South constituency; and if he will make a statement. [313074]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government recognise that the global economic downturn has affected all regions within the UK, including Portsmouth and the wider Hampshire economy. Government Departments and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), as the regional development agency in the region, have taken forward a number of initiatives to provide assistance to families and businesses in these difficult times. The Chancellor will provide an update on the state of the economy at a national level in the 2010 Budget report later this year.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what checks are carried out by HM Revenue and Customs to ensure alcoholic goods have been correctly exported before duty is repaid. [314165]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is a condition of reimbursement of UK duty under the drawback provisions that the claimant must be able to demonstrate that the goods to which a drawback claim relates have been exported from the UK and that duty has been paid or secured to the satisfaction of the fiscal authority in the member state of destination.

HMRC test the veracity of the evidence claimant's use in support of their claims. More detailed information cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls.

Excise Duties: Beer

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism is in place to monitor the movement of beer under duty suspension to the EU. [314167]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The movement of beer in duty suspension between EU member states is governed by EU Council Directive 92/12/EEC. This states that movements within the EU must take place between approved businesses and must be accompanied by an Administrative Accompanying Document (AAD) at all times. Once the goods have been received at their destination, the consignee must discharge the movement by returning a report of receipt to the consignor.

Government Departments: Hotels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on public sector: hospitality, if he will place in the Library a full copy of the summary data on bookings made under the contract Buying Solutions has with Expotel. [312458]

Ian Pearson: It is for the relevant public sector body to account for their use of the Expotel contract.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of Government expenditure on goods and services was directed through framework agreements drawn up with the assistance of the Office of Government Commerce in the last 12 months; and what requirements there are on *(a)* Departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies to procure goods and services through such framework agreements. [312164]

Mr. Byrne: The Operational Efficiency Programme published at Budget 2009 required Departments, their executive agencies and NDPBs to comply with the requirements of category strategies ratified by the collaborative procurement programme for 80 per cent. of available expenditure. In the year to December 2009, £17.9 billion of Government expenditure complied with such strategies. This included a large element of spend channelled through framework agreements drawn up by professional buying organisations (PBOs), the largest of which is Buying Solutions, an executive agency of OGC. In the same period Buying Solutions reported £5.9 billion of spend through its frameworks.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government's policy that public sector posts over £150,000 will require his Department's explicit approval will apply to local government chief executives. [311659]

Mr. Byrne: The 2009 pre-Budget report announced a set of fundamental reforms to pay-setting for senior staff, including:

> "New scrutiny of pay levels above £150,000: the Chief Secretary to the Treasury will approve pay levels in excess of £150,000 for all civil service appointments and appointments to public sector bodies which are subject to Ministerial approval. This will also apply to all bonus payments of over £50,000 where Ministerial sign-off is needed. For public sector bodies where Ministerial approval is not required, the Government expects all organisations making senior managerial appointments in excess of £150,000 to publicly justify this level, and any bonus in excess of £50,000, to the relevant Secretary of State."

For local government chief executives, the Government expect that any senior appointment in excess of £150,000 will have to be publicly justified to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Non-domestic Rates: Aerials

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 779W, on non-domestic rates, how many mobile telephone masts in each local authority area are on the 2010 Rating List. [311825]

Ian Pearson: Mobile telephone masts are recorded for statistical purposes as in the category of 'communication stations', SCAT Code 066. This category includes other communication masts as well as mobile telephone masts. Data relating to mobile telephone masts only are not held and a further breakdown of these statistics is not therefore possible.

Smuggling: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what quantity of illegal *(a)* cigarettes, *(b)* spirits, *(c)* diesel, *(d)* petrol and *(e)* counterfeit goods was recovered in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [313678]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The figures for the last two years are shown in the following table. HMRC record diesel and petrol together, so the oils figure covers both.

	2007-08	*2008-09*
Cigarettes (million sticks)	4.7	22.1
Spirits (litres)	761	703
Oils (million litres)	0.82	1.09
Counterfeit goods (units)	23,227	1,684

The pressure we maintain to disrupt illicit supply chains means that fraudsters continually respond by changing their modus operandi and supply routes. That leads to fluctuations in the level seizures we make region by region year and on year.

In relation to the difference between the numbers of counterfeit units seized, the 2007-08 figures include a single exceptional seizure of 21,000 units.

Valuation Office: Freedom of Information

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time was for the Valuation Office Agency to *(a)* respond substantively to a Freedom of Information Act 2000 request and *(b)* complete an internal review related to such a request in the last 12 months; and whether any (i) requests and (ii) reviews currently being considered have taken longer than six months since they began. [308347]

Ian Pearson: The average time the Valuation Office Agency took to respond to a Freedom of Information Act 2000 request was *(a)* 15 working days and *(b)* 47 days to complete an internal review related to such a request in the latest 12 months that statistics have been published on the Ministry of Justice's website (between 1 June 2008 and 30 May 2009); (i) one of the requests has taken longer than six months to respond to; (ii) none of the Internal Reviews took more than six months.

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 577W, on abortion, how many abortions there were in women aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* between 20 and 24, *(c)* between 25 and 29, *(d)* between 30 and 34 and *(e)* 35 years old and above in each of the last 10 years (i) for England and (ii) broken down by primary care trust area of residence. [313634]

Gillian Merron: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for people with an alcohol addiction for an appointment with a psychiatric nurse *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in the most recent period for which figures are available. [313676]

Gillian Merron: We do not hold this information centrally.

Brain Aneurysms

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the NHS has made of the effectiveness of coiling treatments for brain aneurysms. [313644]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence made an assessment of the effectiveness of coil embolisation in their Interventional Procedure Guidance 106 "Coil Embolisation of Ruptured Intracranial Aneurysms" published in January 2005. This guidance is available at:

www.evidence.nhs.uk/search.aspx?t=IPG106

Cancer: Health Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of treating non-UK residents for cancer was in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the last five years. [314168]

Gillian Merron: These data are not collected centrally, as due to the nature of the claims system between the United Kingdom and other countries, it is not possible to disaggregate the data by either type of claim or type of treatment. Further, it is not possible to disaggregate centrally held data on cancer treatment provided by the national health service by visitor type.

Chlamydia: Screening

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets were set by his Department for testing under 25 year-olds for chlamydia under the National Chlamydia Screening Programme *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each primary care trust within London in each of the last five years; what testing levels were achieved; and how much has been spent on the programme to date. [313690]

Gillian Merron: To date there have been four annual indicators set with regards to chlamydia screening/testing. The first related to the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008; the following three indicators were set for each consecutive fiscal year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011.

In April 2007, we introduced a national health service local delivery plan data monitoring line (LDP PSA11d). The LDP line measured the proportion of the population aged 15 to 24 years screened for chlamydia through the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP). The expectation set for the LDP was for 15 per cent. of the 15 to 24-year-old resident population in each primary care trust (PCT) to be screened for chlamydia between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

In 2008-09 chlamydia was included as a tier two vital signs indicator. This measures the proportion of the 15 to 24-year-old total population tested for chlamydia outside of genito-urinary medicine clinics. In 2008-09 the expectation was for 17 per cent. of the target population to be tested for chlamydia, 25 per cent. in 2009-10 and 35 per cent. in 2010-11.

Data on the numbers tested in the NCSP, nationally, in each region, in each PCT within London and the testing levels achieved, have been placed in the Library.

The Department does not break down PCT allocations by individual policy areas, at either the national or local level, or monitor how PCTs spend their allocations. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally taking in to account both priorities and the national health service operating framework. However, a National Audit office report 'Young people's sexual health: the National Chlamydia Screening Programme', published on 12 November 2009, estimated that between 2003 and 2009, £100 million had been spent on delivering the programme.

Contraceptives: Health Education

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 471W, on contraceptives: health education, what the main areas of estimated advertising expenditure were; how much was spent on each; what the overall non-advertising costs of developing the campaign were; and if he will make a statement. [313631]

Gillian Merron: The answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 471W noted that, estimated advertising expenditure for the November/December burst of activity on the 'Contraception. Worth Talking About' campaign is £1,218,000. Estimated advertising costs for a further burst of activity planned for February 2010 are approximately £1,513,000.

These costs break down as follows

	£
November/December burst	
Television	951,000
Radio	150,000
Press	71,000
Online	46,000
February burst	
Television	1,220,000
Radio	162,000
Press	89,000
Online	42,000

It is not possible to isolate the overall non-advertising costs of developing the contraception. Worth talking about campaign as these costs cover all strands of the Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy campaign.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons he commissioned the production of polling data on people's attitudes to pornography to inform his Department's campaign on contraception, as referred to in the papers deposited in the Library pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 472W, on contraception: health education; in what ways these data have been used to inform his Department's campaign; and if he will make a statement. [313633]

Gillian Merron: The development of the 'Sex. Worth Talking' campaign was based on a range of evidence and research. The Department conducted research on current attitudes to sex, relationships and sexual health, to inform the campaign, but the campaign was not informed specifically by research on attitudes to pornography.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average time his Department took to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the last 12 months. [313668]

Phil Hope: The average time to answer ordinary written questions in 2009 was 7.93 working days and the average time to answer named day questions was 4.64 working days. Average times include days during parliamentary recesses when questions cannot be answered.

With effect from the current session of Parliament, each Department will provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics on the time taken to answer written questions. This implements recommendation 24 of the third report from the Procedure Committee, session 2008-09.

Note:

Working days are days Monday to Friday, including bank holidays.

Diabetes

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people had been diagnosed with diabetes *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each primary care trust in London in each of the last five years. [313686]

Ann Keen: The national Quality and Outcomes Framework records the number of people recorded on certain practice disease registers in England. A register exists for diabetes and counts are available for the financial years from 2004-05 to 2008-09. The figures are available nationally, by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust.

The number of SHAs changed between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Information for these is given in two separate tables, for the authorities in existence at the time.

The diabetes register will include patients aged 17 years and over with diabetes mellitus. (As the care of children with diabetes mellitus is generally under the control of specialists, the register excludes those patients age 16 and under).

All tables providing this information have been placed in the Library.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners aged under 18 years are (i) undergoing detoxification programmes and (ii) receiving a maintenance prescription of heroin-substitute drugs. [313550]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected by the Department.

Eileen Trust

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which payments made by his Department to the Eileen Trust in the last five years *(a)* constituted (i) an ex-gratia payment and (ii) an admittance of liability on the Government's part and *(b)* were made for other reasons. [314409]

Gillian Merron: All of the Department's payments to the Eileen Trust in the last five years have been to enable the Trust to make ex gratia payments to its beneficiaries. There has been no admission of liability in connection with these payments and no payments have been made to the Trust for other reasons.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 245W, on contraceptives, whether he has published the sexual health commissioning framework. [313635]

Gillian Merron: The Department hopes to publish the new commissioning framework for sexual health in the spring.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons a UK military pension paid to a resident of the Isle of Man will not be deemed to be a UK state pension for the purpose of qualifying for free emergency admission to hospital when that person visits the UK after the end of the UK-Isle of Man reciprocal health agreement with effect from 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement; [314205]

(2) if he will ensure that former members of HM Armed Forces resident in the Isle of Man in receipt of military pensions will continue to have free NHS hospital care when visiting the UK when they are subject of an emergency admission to hospital following the end of the reciprocal UK-Isle of Man Health Agreement on 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [314206]

Gillian Merron: The National Health Service Charges to Overseas Visitors Regulations set out a number of exemptions to charging, regardless of where an individual resides.

Those serving in HM UK forces are exempt from all charges for NHS hospital treatment (including elective treatment). Those in receipt of a war pension or war widows pension are also exempt from all hospital treatment charges (including elective treatment). In addition, those in receipt of a UK state pension are exempt from charges for treatment the need for which arises during a visit to the UK.

The Regulations do not exempt other ex-service people on the basis of being in receipt of a military pension, but some specific services are exempt from charge to all persons, e.g. those provided in an accident and emergency Department.

Health Services: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the North East strategic health authority on each of the priorities set out by its clinical innovation team in its document, Our strategic vision for transforming healthcare services within the North East of England, of June 2009. [313911]

Ann Keen: The strategic vision for transforming health care services within the North East of England was developed locally by the North East strategic health authority as part of the National Health Service Next Stage Review.

"Our Vision, Our Future" priorities were developed through unprecedented engagement and reflect the needs and expectations of the local community.

Delivery is overseen locally. The Department does not performance manage its delivery in line with its commitments to local empowerment, decentralisation and reducing unnecessary bureaucracy.

Health Visitors: Devon

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in *(a)* Torbay constituency and *(b)* Devon in each year since 1997. [313885]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: health visitors at Torbay Care Trust and Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at 30 September each year

							Headcount
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Devon PCT	144	137	132	131	138	125	116
Torbay Care Trust	29	29	30	29	28	26	26

Notes:

1. East Devon PCT, Exeter PCT, Mid Devon PCT, North Devon PCT, South Hams and West Devon PCT and Teignbridge PCT merged to form Devon PCT in 2006. Figures for 2002 to 2005 are an aggregate of these predecessor PCTs.
2. Torbay PCT became Torbay Care Trust in 2005. Figures for 2002 to 2004 are for Torbay PCT.
3. Torbay PCT was formed in 2002. It is impossible to map staff for this organisation prior to 2002.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Health: Unemployment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the correlation between trends in the level of unemployment and trends in the level of illnesses attributable to drink or drugs. [313254]

Gillian Merron: The following research in relation to alcohol has been either commissioned or evaluated:

Commissioned:

"Indications of Public Health in the English Regions—8: Alcohol", was produced and published by the North West Public Health Observatory.

A review of the affects of alcohol pricing and promotion by the University of Sheffield

Evaluated several studies, in particular:

"Health in Finland", by Koskiinen S., Aromaa A., Huttunen J. and Tepen J., Helsinki 2006

Office for National Statistics longitudinal studies

The Department has not commissioned research concerning a correlation between levels of employment and illnesses attributable to drugs.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many procedures planned by each NHS trust were cancelled for non-clinical reasons on or after the day of admission in the latest period for which figures are available. [313880]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of operations which are cancelled for non-clinical reasons on or after the day of admission, are published by the Department on a quarterly basis. The latest available figures are for the quarter ending 30 September 2009.

The data can also be found at the following web address:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/Cancelledoperations/index.htm

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* day case activities were not undertaken because the patient did not attend in the latest period for which figures are available. [313882]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total number of admissions and the number of patients who failed to attend, are shown in the following table. These are the latest available figures, for the quarter ending 30 September 2009.

Data which show the total number of admissions and the number of patients who failed to attend, split by in-patient and day case admissions, are not held centrally.

Q2 2009-10

	Number
Admissions	1,128,376
Patients failed to attend	28,146

Note:
Admissions includes only ordinary and day case admissions.
Source:
Department of Health Quarterly Activity Return, Commissioner based (QARCom)

Hospitals: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers and officials in his Department have held with NHS staff in London in 2009-10 to discuss (i) reviews of the acute hospital sector in London, (ii) options for closing one or more hospitals in London and (iii) options for closing units or services at London hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [313447]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The reconfiguration of health services is a matter for the local national health service.

NHS staff brief Ministers on their local reconfiguration plans in order to support parliamentary business and do so as necessary.

Ministers also meet routinely with chief executives and chairs of strategic health authorities to discuss plans for service change.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 552, on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, (1) if he will publish the terms of reference of the internal governance review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; [313601]

(2) by *(a)* what mechanisms and *(b)* whom the decision was made to conduct an internal governance review rather than an independent inquiry; and whether he was consulted on that decision; [313602]

(3) what progress has been made on the internal governance review; and whether individuals outside that Authority *(a)* have contributed and *(b)* will contribute to that review; [313603]

(4) what changes have been implemented by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to prevent a recurrence of the circumstances under consideration in the internal governance review; [313604]

(5) whether the terms of reference of the internal governance review include the Authority's contact with the BBC in the making of a Panorama programme; [313605]

(6) for what reasons his Department made the payment of £580,000 to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, as referred to its 2008-09 Annual Report. [313606]

(7) how much funding his Department has provided to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority for legal assistance in respect of the circumstances under consideration in the internal governance review. [313608]

Gillian Merron: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that the terms of reference of its internal governance review are published on the Authority's website www.hfea.gov.uk/5743.html

The HFEA has also advised that following consideration of advice prepared by the Chief Executive, the Members of the Authority determined it unnecessary for the review to be undertaken by an external person. This was a matter for the HFEA and the Department of Health was not involved. The purpose of the review is to assess the adequacy of the Authority's revised governance arrangements in relation to the threshold between administrative enforcement of its powers and the sphere of criminal law. The HFEA considers this internal review to be the right way to look critically at what happened and to ensure changes made to its processes and procedures provide it with adequate governance arrangements.

The HFEA has advised that the senior officer undertaking the review has devoted many months to reviewing the documentation held by the Authority. This officer will shortly contact those involved, inviting them to contribute.

The HFEA has been undergoing an overall programme of change since 2008. This followed the changes to the Authority's membership and its senior management team that began in 2007. The change programme has included the establishment of a new appeals committee, a new compliance and enforcement policy, indicative sanctions guidance and a clear separation of functions between inspection of clinics and licensing. The internal governance review will inform the Authority as to whether further changes are needed.

The annual allocation of grant-in-aid funding is determined on the basis of the HFEA's annual business plan and its estimate of the funding needed to conduct its business in that year, which may involve some expenditure on legal assistance. The allocation does not identify monies to be spent on individual legal actions.

Supplementary grant-in-aid of £580,000 was paid to the HFEA in the financial year 2008-09, in respect of unforeseen expenditure incurred as a result of legal actions.

The total supplementary grant-in-aid paid to HFEA in respect of unforeseen legal costs since 2005-06 is the sum of £580,000 in the year 2008-09, which was incurred as the result of legal actions involving the case associated with the internal review.

Mental Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his timetable is for the introduction of proposals for regulation of counselling and psychotherapy. [313877]

Ann Keen: We are currently considering the recommendations made by the Health Professions Council on this matter.

Final decisions have yet to be taken about the legislation to statutorily regulate psychotherapists and counsellors. The regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors is a devolved matter and a decision to take forward regulation on a United Kingdom wide basis would have to be supported by the Administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

NHS: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the primary care trust gross expenditure was in each programme budgeting category *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each primary care trust in London in each of the last five years. [313688]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which medical categories fall within the programme budgeting category entitled 'Other' used to categorise primary care trust programme budgeting expenditure; and on which 10 of these medical categories most has been spent. [313689]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Expenditure on general and personal medical services made up 64 per cent. of primary care trust expenditure within the 'other' programme budgeting category in the 2008-09 financial year. This expenditure cannot be broken down into medical categories.

The remaining 34 per cent. was made up of other miscellaneous expenditure for which a further breakdown of expenditure is not available. Information on the types of activity which contribute to other miscellaneous expenditure has been placed in the Library.

Orthopaedics: Manpower

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many orthopaedic surgeons have been employed by the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last 10 years. [314163]

Ann Keen: The orthopaedic surgery speciality falls under the Trauma and Orthopaedic category of the NHS Workforce Census. The following table gives the numbers for this category in the years requested.

NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical staff within the trauma and orthopaedic specialty, as at 30 September each year

Numbers (headcount)

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England											
All staff	3,411	3,540	3,611	3,801	4,028	4,346	4,691	4,884	5,163	5,178	5,207
Of which:											
Consultants	1,067	1,142	1,199	1,267	1,331	1,437	1,530	1,608	1,710	1,760	1,762
Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust[1]											
All staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Of which:											
Consultants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[2]											
All Staff	40	42	39	40	44	50	53	61	63	61	64
Of which:											
Consultants	12	12	13	15	15	16	21	23	22	22	24

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Gloucestershire PCT was formed in 2006 from a complete merger of West Gloucestershire PCT, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT and Cotswold and Vale PCT.

[2] Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was formed in 2002 from a complete merger of East Gloucestershire NHS Trust and Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust. Figures have been aggregated to allow comparison.

Data quality:

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 20 January 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's advertisement for a job vacancy published in August 2009, for a policy adviser to the Secretary of State on Faith and Community, and pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Tony Clements, how many staff in his Department who are not special advisers have the job title *(a)* policy and *(b)* departmental adviser. [292982]

[Official Report, 5 November 2009, Vol. 498, c. 1121W.]

Letter of correction from Barbara Follett:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) on 5 November 2009. The figure given for the number of staff who currently have policy adviser within their job title was incorrect and should have read 242 rather than the published figure of 87.

The correct answer should have been:

Barbara Follett: All civil servants in the Department provide policy advice to Ministers as necessary and regardless of job title.

According to the Department's Staff Directory, 242 staff currently have policy adviser within their job title and no staff have departmental adviser within their job title.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 25 January 2010

DEFENCE

Topical Questions

Letter of correction from Mr. Quentin Davies:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Bosworth (David Tredinnick) on 11 January 2010.

David Tredinnick (Bosworth) (Con): Given the shortage of helicopters in Afghanistan, when are the remaining Merlin helicopters in Iraq going to be moved into theatre?

[Official Report, 11 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 409.]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have already begun to deploy them. The first Merlin arrived before Christmas, and Merlins are in the process of being deployed there. Over the next few months, we will deploy not only more Merlins, but more Chinooks and the re-engined Lynxes, which can fly 365 days a year. As I said earlier, between July last year and July this year, there is to be a 50 per cent increase in the number of helicopters in Afghanistan, and an even greater increase in available flying hours.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have already begun to deploy them. The first Merlin arrived before Christmas, and Merlins are in the process of being deployed there. Over the next few months, we will deploy not only more Merlins, but more Chinooks and the re-engined Lynxes, which can fly 365 days a year. As I said earlier, between July last year and July this year, there is to be a 50 per cent. increase in the number of helicopters in Afghanistan, and an increase in available flying hours of 45 per cent.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 27 January 2010

DEFENCE

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in each of the last five years; how much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date; and what percentage of advertising expenditure in each year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [309901]

[Official Report, 13 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 995-996W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Kevan Jones:

A number of errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 13 January 2010. These errors arose as a result of mistakes in calculating the breakdown in armed forces recruitment advertising spend against the specified categories in the following areas—TV and Cinema in 2004-05; Print in 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09; and Online and Interactive TV in 2007-08 and 2008-09. Additionally, the original answer included a second table which was incorrectly identified as relating to non-recruitment advertising spend, when in fact it was total spend including creative and production costs. This has been removed from the revised answer and the relevant data incorporated into a single table broken down by the specified categories to provide a clearer representation of the data requested.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Kevan Jones: The majority of advertising conducted by the Ministry of Defence is part of the drive to recruit the best personnel to the armed forces and civil service. In addition the Department may promote other initiatives such as Armed Forces day.

Spend relating to advertising activities, which is available centrally against the specified categories is shown in the following table. The Central Office of Information manages all but a small percentage, less than 1 per cent. of this. Information for 2009-10 is not yet available.

Advertising spend

£ million

	Print (press and poster)	*Online and interactive TV*	*TV and cinema*	*Radio*
2004-05	2.0	0.8	15.9	2.3
2005-06	2.5	1.6	15.2	2.2
2006-07	2.0	2.3	10.1	1.3
2007-08	3.7	3.0	18.7	1.6
2008-09	4.9	4.6	17.4	1.5

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 28 January 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have received Level 6 Code for Sustainable Homes certification. [312009]

[Official Report, 25 January 2010, Vol. 504, c. 564W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Ian Austin:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 25 January 2010. Code Level 6 was omitted from the final sentence.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Ian Austin: Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) is a zero carbon home with very high sustainability standards and is an incredibly high standard to build to. However, we now have a growing number of homes been built to this higher level of the Code.

It takes between 18 months and two years to design and build a Code home. The Code came into operation in April 2007, but we did not start seeing homes built to the Code standard until late 2008. The number of Code homes are increasing every month. At the end of December 2009, there were a total of 2,434 homes with Code certificates spread across all Code levels at post-construction stage (i.e. completed Code homes), 10,319 at design stage and over 300,000 registered homes on over 3,000 developments. Most of these homes are built to Code Level 3—which represents for energy a 25 per cent. improvement on the current building regulations and is a demanding building standard. Homes funded by the Homes and Communities Agency are required to meet Code Level 3 standard.

There are two stages in the assessment process for the Code and 110 Code Level 6 homes have been certified.